

# SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

## SOUTH SIZZLE KNIGHTS

By Mark Stavroulakis

**I**n footballing terms, derby matches between two cross-town rivals always brings out the best in players and spectators of their favoured sides.

On the weekend in England, we had the fierce London derby between Arsenal and Tottenham and the match as expected, brought out the best in both sides with full commitment by all players and end to end action that pulsed millions watching the game across the world.

Melbourne had a taste of its own local derby between South Melbourne and rivals the Melbourne Knights.

The game lived up to its reputation as six goals, two penalties, two send off's and a healthy crowd of ten thousand plus witnessed an enthralling game between two of Australia's toughest sides.

Bob Jane Stadium erupted into cheers at the conclusion of the match as South Melbourne went on to defeat the Knights four-two that saw them edge closer towards the top six.

Goals from Paul Trimboli, Peter Buljan, a scorching drive from Billy Damianos and a neat header from Nick Tolios was enough to end the Knights unbeaten run this season.

Croatian import Leon Buhic and rising Knights star Anthony Pelikan were once again on the Knights scoresheet however it's wasn't enough to gift Andrew Marth's side the three valuable points.

The win proved costly for Danny Wright's side as damage was done to both his strikers during the heated derby clash.

Peter Buljan was given his marching orders and Kiwi import Vaughan Coveny was knocked out cold by Knights defender Rodrigo Vargas limiting Wright's striking force in next week's clash against the Marconi Stallions.

"To have two strikers sent off in two successive matches (Baird & Buljan) and a third going off with concussion is an absolute disaster for us", stated Wright at the post-match

conference.

In other National League matches the Football Kingz claimed its first win on home soil last Friday night with a hard fought two-one win over the always improving Parramatta Power.

Kingz substitute striker Paul Urlovic scored the winner in the dying stages of the match to gift Ken Dugdale the precious three points.

The Power had many chances to take the game however poor finishing thwarted Nick Theodorakopoulos' side.

The Olympic Sharks remained in pole position as the league's number one side after securing a three-two victory over the Northern Spirit.

After taking a three-nil lead towards the end of the match, Spirit new recruit Vuko Tomasevic bagged two goals to pull his side back into the game however it was too little too late for Lawrie McKinna's men who had six regular players missing through injury and suspension.

After controlling the majority of the match, Sharks coach Gary Phillips added that it was troubling to see some of his players run out of fitness. "Some players ran out of steam — it's a bit of a concern".

While for the Spirit, coach McKinna stressed that to gain a result, his squad needs to play for the full ninety-minutes. "Every game we've finished strongly and played some good football, we just need to do it for 90 minutes".

Newcastle United continued its one hundred percent record at home with a scoreless draw against Marconi.

The three points could have been in the bag for Ian Crook's men after Newcastle were awarded a penalty in the 85th minute, however Joel Griffiths' spot-kick slammed against the woodwork.

It was a case of failing to hit the target for Crook's men, something that has eluded the side for quite some time now this season.

Marconi had their fair chances in coming away with the victory however United custodian Daniel

Beltrame showed his class under the sticks.

The Stallions have now gone unbeaten in three matches.

Perth Glory remained the Olympic Sharks' biggest threat after defeating the Wollongong Wolves three-one to sit two points outside first position.

Brad Hassell proved to be the Glory's hero notching up a brace and in the process racking up his 50th goal of the season, while it was a first of the year for striker Nick Mrdja.

Ron Corry's men have also failed to hit the back of the net during the year as three goals in five matches is a trend Corry hopes to amend in their next fixture.

Finally Sydney United remained on course on making the elusive top six come end of the season with a tough two-one home victory against the Adelaide City Force.

Two goals by United revelation Jon Angelucci has hinted strong warnings that he is the main man for Branko Culina's squad.

After failing to make an impression in the side last season, Angelucci was loaned out to Malaysian club Johor (coached by the then Ron Smith), and came back from his Asian venture this year.

Having replaced the suspended Commins Menapi in the Force clash, the 26-year-old took his goal-scoring tally to three for the season.

"He's had more clubs than Jack Nicklaus but he's at a good age now where he should say where am I and what do I want to achieve? — He'll prove a lot of people wrong this season", were the words used by coach Culina after the game.

The game looked destined for a draw until substitute Anthony Doumanis weaved some magic into the United squad to gift Angelucci the winner.

Praise must go to the 20-year-old as it's been the second time this year, young Doumanis has come on and created a chance that's led to a United win.

The Brisbane Strikers played out the bye.



South Melbourne lynchpin Steve Panopoulos shows off his kung-fu skills against the Knights' Lubo Lapsaňky during the heated Melbourne derby last Sunday afternoon.

## WILL THE CHAIRMAN GO?

By Daniel Kuziow

**C**hairman Ian Knop's tenure as head of Soccer Australia is under serious threat after its board called for the scheduling of an extraordinary meeting on December 7 to decide his immediate fate.

The move comes after four board members-Dominic Galati, Les Avory, Bill Walker and Paul Afkos had staged an earlier coup in trying to dispose of the incumbent Knop. Yet that failure earlier this week has meant the upcoming meeting is the best chance to free SA of its much-maligned excess baggage.

This new anti-Knop board elected after Soccer Australia's Annual General Meeting saw a no confidence motion being passed almost immediately. Coupled with this, the delay in securing media rights for the National Soccer League and Knop's intervention with Channel 7 without the board's prior authorisation have weighed heavily on the minds of the stakeholders.

Deputy chairman Les Avory confirmed the situation and told sources "A general meeting will be called to discuss critical business...The situation is unworkable."

He maintained that Knop was aware of the upcoming date yet still endorsed the belief

that the future was very much in the hands of the chairman, explaining; "He can still do the right thing and walk of his own accord or he can face the music on December 7."

It now seems the odds are firmly stacked against Knop. Already the New South Wales Soccer Federation and the Victorian Soccer Federation have called for his resignation. In August NSWSP President Tom Doumanis called on Knop to relinquish his post in what he saw as a case of poor management and administration.

At the December meeting a majority of 61 votes is enough to evict the chairman. New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern NSW Soccer Federation already control a total of 19 votes with a further five votes expected to come from the South Australian Soccer Federation and another four from the West Australian Federation respectively. With the 13 NSL clubs having a hold of some 16 votes for a total of 44 votes a further 17 votes is all that are needed from disgruntled stakeholders for SA to start afresh with a new chairman.

But with Knop's proficient track record of dodging the deadly bullet, it may be a little harder to remove a man whose heels seem firmly dug into the foundations of Soccer Australia.



Youngsters Shane Smeltz & Anthony Pelikan Interviewed  
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BY DANIEL KUZIW

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A stack of news is filtering through the offices of AA this week concerning many of Leeds United's Australian stars.

Harry Kewell has told the Leeds website that he and his Leeds teammates had better be at their best if they are to progress to the third round of the UEFA Cup by beating Israeli side Hapoel Tel-Aviv.

"It wouldn't matter where we play them, it's going to be a hard game," said Kewell.

"They didn't surprise me in the first game. We knew what they were capable of after what they did against Chelsea (in the UEFA Cup) last year, and they gave us a good game.

"They're a very good side, especially going forward. They had two quick strikers and they did put us under pressure at times. It looked like they were always going to score.

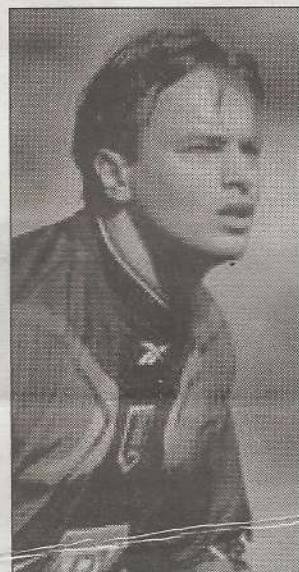
"Although we may have a 1-0 lead, it really counts for nothing because they can go out and score in the first five minutes.

"But we will be going out there to get the win. Hopefully

we can get an early goal and silence them."

Mark Viduka has come out this week backing his Leeds team-mates to keep improving and picking up the points again after last week's victory at West Ham.

The Aussie striker, who scored his first goal in four games in the 4-3 win, believes the win could be the kick-start United need to start moving up the Barclaycard Premiership table again.



**Mark Viduka: Earlier in the week admitted himself into a clinic suffering severe depression.**



**Mark Viduka: Confident Leeds will return to winning ways.**

"It's always the case when things go badly that everyone calls for the manager's head," Viduka told the United website. "It's a normal thing in football though. The best scenario would be for everyone to be happy, but the game isn't like that.

"We needed to win on Sunday, definitely. We've all been under a lot of pressure lately and we were playing for the manager and the whole set up.

"But it was a good three points and hopefully we can

build on this. The goals have been building up and we created a lot of chances against West Ham, so perhaps it was a bit of a release."

Meanwhile just a week after being loaned out to Plymouth Argyle Danny Milosevic has returned to Elland Road after playing just one game.

Milosevic sustained an injury during Saturday's draw with Oldham Athletic and had to be replaced by Luke McCormick.

The Australian has returned to the Yorkshire club to have the injury assessed, but early reports suggest that the hamstring/knee injury may be serious and put him out of action for a few weeks.

"Leeds own the player and are taking care of him," Sturrock told the club's official website.

"If he can return then they have given permission for him to play in the FA Cup on Saturday."

Here is the official word on fallen Soccerroo Mark Bosnich from a Chelsea news release.

"The news issued by Mark Bosnich's agent has stressed the players' request for privacy. Mark, with the agreement of the club, has not been training since Sunday's newspaper allegations [of cocaine use].

"Mark's depression treatment and the newspaper stories surrounding his alleged breach of doping regulations remain a confidential matter."

Meanwhile Players' union leader Gordon Taylor has called for Mark Bosnich to be given understanding after the Chelsea goalkeeper admitted himself to a depression unit.

Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said: "It's not always easy for an individual."

He added on Sky Sports News: "Mark Bosnich has problems and has accepted that and it's up to everyone to understand that and accept he's been big enough to admit himself into a clinic."

The 30-year-old goalkeeper was caught up in claims at the weekend that he had tested positive for cocaine.

And last night a statement released to the Press Association from the player's management company, SEM, read: "Mark Bosnich has been diagnosed as suffering from severe clinical depression.

"On medical advice he was today admitted to a depression unit of a medical facility to obtain treatment for that depression.

"It would not usually be appropriate to release this type of information, which is private in nature, but it has been decided to do so on this occasion to prevent speculation.

"Mark thanks the press for

their support at this difficult time and asks in the circumstances that further information as to his treatment and whereabouts should remain private."

The BBC have reported that Greenock Morton have sacked manager Dave McPherson.

McPherson had enjoyed success as a player with Rangers, Hearts and Scotland before moving to play in Australia and recently returned to Scotland to take up a coaching role.

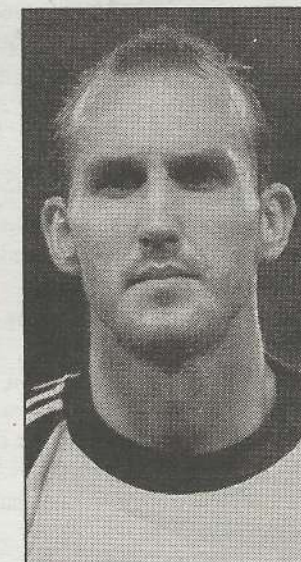


**Dave McPherson: Sacked as manager of Greenock Morton.**

The Third Division side's board explained that results had not been good enough for the investment they had made with the club currently fourth in Division Three, three points behind leaders East Fife.

McPherson was appointed Morton manager in March 2002 but could not prevent them from being relegated from the Second Division. The club have Australian brothers Marco and John Maisano currently on their books.

Australian and Middlesbrough goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer has blasted Soccer Australia for the small number of international games the team plays each year and has called on them to increase the number of international matches.



**Mark Schwarzer: Has called on Soccer Australia to increase the number of international matches.**

"Are we going to wait until, you know, 18 months or so before the next qualifiers before we start playing games and that's the worrying part you know," Schwarzer was quoted on www.abc.net.au

"When you look at every country in the world, once they miss out on qualification or immediately after the World Cup they're straight back down to the business, and that's what's a little frustrating - that we haven't really had any games beforehand.

"I mean, it sort of feels like we've wasted a year."

On a similar note, Soccerroos and Birmingham City midfielder, Stan Lazaridis, believes Australia can field a competitive team in next February's "friendly" against England in London.

Lazaridis said the Soccerroos would love to emulate Australia's performance against England in the cricket.

"It was so good to play Scotland when we did have that chance and beat them," he said.

"I think it shocked a lot of people, so if we can turn England over or get a good result against them it really will shock a lot of people."

For youngster Sasa Rudulovic, Germany is fast becoming an increasingly good hunting ground.



**Sasa Rudulovic: Being scouted by a number of Bundesliga clubs.**

While currently playing for German Second Division outfit, Oberhausen, Rudulovic has sparked interest from a number of Bundesliga clubs.

Both the local press and his trainer, Aleksander Ristic are hailing his performance after he struck the winner in last week's German Cup victory over Arminia Bielefeld.

"Sasa is a good boy and a dangerous player," said Ristic during the week.

"He has the ability to score from midfield, which can surprise people. He's been a great signing for Oberhausen."

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## A MATCH MADE IN SOCCEROO HEAVEN

**T**HE Socceroos will play England for the first time on English soil in February.

Soccer Australia confirmed last week that the Socceroos would play England on February 12 at London's Upton Park - the home ground of English Premier League Club West Ham.

It will be the first time Australia has played the England team in 12 years and all five previous matches between the countries have been in Australia.

Coach Frank Farina said

Harry Kewell and the English likely to be skippered by Manchester United star David Beckham.

The February 12 date falls during a European Championship qualifying week, meaning there is no club football anywhere in Europe.

Australian has never beaten England at the senior level, losing three times and drawing twice.

Kewell is one of several Australians who play in the English Premier League, along with his Leeds teammate Mark Viduka, Socceroo

skipper Paul Okon and goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer.

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said it would be a high quality match.

"Australia have an excellent team now," he told the FA's website.

"We know this from the many players they have playing at the top clubs in the Premier League.

"It's an ideal game for us to play and it will be nice to take England to Upton Park, which was the first ground I visited in this country as England manager."

FA spokesman Paul

Barber said the match would be a fantastic opportunity for fans of both countries, "not least because it follows on so soon after the Ashes series".

He said London was chosen for its large expatriate Australian community and because England had not

played there for 18 months.

It's also expected that the English will make the journey to Australia some time next year in a return match with the Olympic Stadium rumoured to be the venue used for this exciting match up.



Socceroo coach Frank Farina was rapt after hearing the news of the England match going through.

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the friendly would be great news for Australian soccer.

"I'm absolutely rapt that Soccer Australia has been able to confirm this historic match against England," Farina said.

"I'm equally positive that this will be one match that all of Australia will be interested in given our great sporting rivalry with England."

"With this match being the first international for many of our players since our World Cup qualifier against Uruguay, the players will be determined to give something back to the fans and get a good result to further improve upon our international reputation."

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# SIZZLING SMELTZ SHINES FOR CITY

By Allan Crisp

**S**hane Smeltz was destined to be an international. The 21-year old was born in Germany and has an American father and an English mother.

And to increase his cosmopolitan image Smeltz spent his formative soccer years in New Zealand before expanding his football knowledge in Queensland.

Smeltz senior was a USA Army man based in Goppingen, south of Stuttgart, when his son was born.

A year later the family moved to New Zealand where Smeltz's mother spent her early days.

Shane played his first official soccer game as a tender five-year old for Orotea, before his teen years saw him turning out for Gold Coast club Runaway Bay.

After a season with the senior Premier League club, Smeltz was selected for the Queensland Academy of Sport where he came under the keen recruiting eye of Brisbane Strikers coach John Kosmina.

"I made 25 appearances for the Strikers, mostly coming off the bench," Smeltz said.

The owner of a New Zealand passport, Smeltz played for one season with NZ National League side Napier City Rovers for which he top scored with 20 goals from 18 games and was acclaimed its Player of the Year.

While he was still with Brisbane Strikers Smeltz was chosen in the Kiwi Under 20 squad. Later he progressed to the senior New Zealand squad that toured China. He played against the Chinese Olympic team and scored for the Kiwis against touring Scottish club Dunfermline.

He now plays for Adelaide City Force, having happily settled in South Australia because his partner Nicole is an Adelaide girl.

Deflecting the focus from himself Smeltz, who admits to the nickname "Smeltzy," revealed that Nicole is a champion triathlete.

"I love it here in Adelaide," Smeltz said as he recalled his satisfaction at scoring his first goal for his new club in the 4-0 win over South Melbourne at Hindmarsh Stadium.

That high point ended the frustration he endured when, after impressing City coach Charley Villani in pre-season trial games and training, he suffered an ankle injury which sidelined him just one week before the NSL season kick-off.

His lengthy rehabilitation period meant that the slim, trim line striker was reduced to brief appearances coming off the bench before his run

on debut day dawned against South.

Coach Villani gambled by choosing Smeltz to partner Claudio Pelosi up front with Scott Tunbridge dropping back to play behind the duo.

As it happened, Tunbridge, Smeltz and Pelosi all scored with Socceroo and South veteran defender Mehmet Durakovic netting an own goal.

It was a third successive goal for Tunbridge, a feat achieved earlier this season by another ex-Socceroo, Aurelio Vidmar.



**Shane Smeltz: Adelaide Force striker gunning for glory this season.**

And, from what we saw of Smeltz, it should not be the last goal the lightning fast forward will score for his new club.

Speed, vision, allied to clever ball control and the uncanny ability to wriggle past opponents in tight spots are the attributes that have impressed Villani, his coaching staff and team mates.

Smeltz has an immediate ambition to play a role in boosting Adelaide City towards a play-off spot.

He also aims to retain a place in the New Zealand squad scheduled to contest the Confederations Cup in France in June.

Admirable motives indeed, but with the NSL grand final set for June 1 there could be a clash of loyalties.

In the eyes of the Adelaide City faithful, it will simply be a matter of the cosmopolitan kid getting his priorities right.

# PELIKAN BRIEFED FOR SUCCESS

By Ben Moring

**T**he Melbourne Knights' start to the season has been impressive to say the least. The club has surprised many pundits by being the last undefeated team standing heading into Round 9 of this year's competition.

And their 20-year-old free scoring midfielder, Anthony Pelikan is flying at the moment. Having scored 4 goals this term, Pelikan is amongst the league's top scorers and has played a major part in reviving the fortunes of the club.

There seems to be a real buzz at the club at present, something that Pelikan can testify to.

"The feeling is really good," he said. "The camaraderie between the boys is really high, compared to years that I've been there. There's a real close knit group this year. I think everyone is full of confidence with Andrew Marth as coach plus a lot of experienced players as well as a lot of young players; confidence is high."

To further illustrate just how high morale is within the club, Pelikan made mention of the club's feeling that this season can really see the Melbourne club rise to former glories:

"I think the aim is still just to make it in the top 6, to make it in the finals. I just think now the boys have a real high opinion of themselves and we all think we have a good chance of even coming in the top 2 now. If you think of the games we drew, we probably deserved to win those games a lot of them."

Not one to take all the plaudits for himself, Pelikan was quick to point out that football is a team game and as such, the success he may enjoy comes directly from the people he has around him. The midfielder ace set himself moderate targets and has gone a long way to fulfilling those already, as he states:

"My confidence is really high at the moment, when you've got players to play with, such great players around you, Steve Horvat, Andrew Marth, Roddy Vargas, Ljubo Lapsansky, Adrian Cervinski and

the new import Leon Buhic, it's pretty easy to play with everyone there. Everyone's a good player, ball players and so my confidence is high.

"My goal at the start of the year was really just to consolidate a starting eleven spot and to play really well. If I could score 5 or 6 goals as a midfielder, then it's really good for the team.

"Now I've got 4 goals, I'm hoping I won't stop now. I just want to keep improving, to keep playing well and each week play better and better and even hope to score a couple more goals."

In particular, Pelikan singled out Andrew Marth's leadership and new import Leon Buhic's contribution to the Knights strikeforce as major contributors to early season success, whereby the club has risen to 5th on the ladder with 11 points.



**Anthony Pelikan: Rising star working wonders at the Melbourne Knights.**

"Andrew has been a player for 12 years playing in the NSL so he knows how to deal with the players. He's had the coaches where you can't really communicate and I think the easy thing with Marth is that you can communicate with him what you feel, he doesn't take offence. Andrew understands and he brings a lot to the team when he plays.

"I don't think there is a player in the league that gives 110%. Even when he's injured, he gives 110% each week.

"He [Buhic] really helps out, takes a lot of pressure of Adrian Cervinski. A lot of people, at the start of the year, thought the club might struggle, he scores a lot of goals and he's in top form. He's going to help a lot, create space and do a lot of that hard work. Adrian is not really one of those players that will do that hard work, so it's good to have Leon in there."

Pressed as to whether his most sought after objective is to don the green-and-gold of Australia, the humble youngster told ABSW:

"I think everyone's got hopes of playing for Australia, it's not like an ultimate goal of mine, I'm not really pushing myself that I have to make the Australian side. But if I make it, it's a bonus. I'm concentrating on my own form and to help out the team."

Well known soccer personality and one of Pelikan's former mentors Eddie Kmcevic has had a close relationship with the Knights' star and has helped shape his blossoming career, one that may lead this young gun to a big club overseas.

"I've known Eddie for a while, he's been my coach," said Pelikan. "He's really helped me out for this year. I had a big injury last year and was out 14 weeks, because I pulled my hamstring."

"This year, I just wanted to be in peak fitness and so Eddie gave me a program, I followed the program and trained really hard by myself, doing fitness to get up."

"With the amounts of contacts Eddie has overseas, when the time is right, if he could get me overseas, it'd be great."

# AWAY GAME HOODOO HAUNTS NEWCASTLE

By Mark Stavroulakis

**N**ewcastle United are currently experiencing the away game syndrome.

After playing four matches on the road against Sydney United, Perth Glory, Olympic Sharks and the Melbourne Knights, Ian Crook's side has unfortunately been unable to register a point away from home nor have they been able to score a single goal.

'Crookie' believes that his side has created many chances upon their away trips, however have failed to hit the back of the net.

"At the moment in the last 2 away games, statistics have shown that we have had no goals and no points and yet 39 shots on goal was evident. To have that many shots in a game, we have to convert a couple of them.

We have played really well but everyone knows that 90% of the time, goals are scored in and around the box and I guess that's something we have to work on. Finishing our chances will be something that I'm sure will bring the club its first victory on the road."

Asked about what he thought of the clubs fortunes so far in the season

Crook added: "We have been a bit up and down in terms of results but certainly not in performances. We've played quite well, home and away, but unfortunately we have failed to pick up points at either Olympic, Perth and the Knights, however I am quite satisfied at the moment."

With Newcastle recruiting a couple of new players for this season, the for-



**Ian Crook is hoping his chargers can bag a much-needed victory on the road this week against the Parramatta Power.**

mer Tottenham and Norwich defender has been quite happy with the side's new blood.

"I think the new boys Steve Eagleton, Scott Thomas and Adam Griffiths have fitted in really well. However in my opinion individuals can only perform good if the rest of their team members perform around them."

National League clubs will once again be allowed to splurge into the transfer market in early January, however Crook has been quite content with his squad this season.

"Well if Michael Owen becomes available, I suppose we'll be in the market (laughs). No we are quite happy with what we've got at the moment. Coaches will always want more, we started off the season with a squad we thought was capable of challenging for the title. I haven't changed my beliefs after nine games, I don't think we will be dwelling into the market unless their is a real injury crisis.

We have 5 AIS boys hopefully coming in the new-year which is good for the club. Whether the five will come back is still up in the air but we have to sit down with the AIS to discuss what will happen", ended Crook.

# KOSMINA NOT GOING ANYWHERE

**B**risbane Strikers management has dismissed speculation coach John Kosmina would be axed following the club's dismal start to the national soccer league season.

General manager Ray Evans said suggestions Kosmina would not last out the season were way off the mark.

"There's been no discussion whatsoever by the board about replacing the coach," Evans said.

"Those discussions are only in the eyes of the media and people on websites."

The Strikers have lost six of their eight matches so far

this season, leaving them anchored at the bottom of the



**John Kosmina: The Strikers management have assured that 'Kossie's job is safe.**

NSL ladder.

The poor results prompted media speculation that Kosmina, whose contract is up at the end of this season, could be replaced.

Kosmina, the players and the club's hierarchy met to discuss the team's performance, with Evans pledging his support to the team and its coaching staff.

"We are obviously disappointed but we are extremely confident that it will be turned around," Evans said.

"We can only go forward."

The Strikers had a bye last week and will face the Football Kingz at Ballymore this Saturday night.



# RON SMITH CHASING NEW AVENUES

By Mark Stavroulakis

**F**ormer AIS head-coach Ron Smith came into the media spotlight a few weeks back with rumours circulating that he would become Australia's new technical coach.

To set the record straight to the few that thought that this would happen, Smith spoke exclusively to ABSW stating the raw facts about this issue.



**Ron Smith: Looking towards furthering the development of youngsters in Australia with his new analysis program.**

"I don't know where that rumor surfaced from. I mean to my knowledge there isn't even a job up for grabs. Until Soccer Australia come out and say that their looking for someone to do a certain thing, everything is just speculation. I know there's been a lot of talk about it in the media from time to time of what's required but that's all to my knowledge."

Away from the Australian issue, Smith has been one busy man in conducting a few new roles in coaching and developing youngsters.

"I went down to a seminar in Melbourne two weeks ago organized by the VSF and was part of 130 coaches present. Frank Farina was going to present a couple of sessions but unfortunately couldn't make it but Ange Postecoglou was there. He did a couple of sessions alongside Ernie Merrick and myself. It gained a lot of interest and I enjoyed working with the many coaches talking about various aspects of the world game."

At the moment I'm looking into something that I've been doing on going for the past 18 months and that's looking at trends in football and in particular with regards to scoring goals.

I've been gathering information and looking at different levels of footballing events like the World Cup, Euro Championships and analyzing a few teams in the Premier League. I've put a proposal to the AIS to Steve O'Connor.

He's interested in that kind of analysis work but it is very time consuming so I said well I'm interested in doing this so I have an agreement to do some work on and off with the AIS.

We will use computers to record games and have a look at the players performances to see if this strategy works."

A former coach of Malaysian side Johor, Smith has agreed to help his former club in assisting them in the current season.

"I'm still coaching, I've agreed to go back. I was asked to go full-time but I've got some commitments here so I wanted to honour those first but I have agreed to go and help the club I used to coach, Johor and work with the coaches over there. I'm going to go at least 10-12 days a month laying down the framework and setting the pattern for the team."

Asked about whether the recent Bali tragedy that claimed many innocent Australian lives would deter him from traveling to Asia, 'Smudger' replied: "Obviously you can't ignore these things. Malaysia is a fairly stable country, its nothing like Indonesia and I certainly wouldn't be doing this if it was in Indonesia, but in my opinion, Malaysia is a safe country and very tolerant and I don't see that there will be any potential problems in that country."

A trend that has been evident in the National League these past few years has been the amount of youngsters marking their soccer debuts in Australia's elite competition.

Ron is a firm believer that the National League is a stepping-stone to many of these players' future careers in the game.

"I think that's (National League) the key to developing players. I was talking to Ange last week and he said that the National League is a good development stage for talented players in their late teenage years and I agree with it. One thing you can't substitute is being on the pitch and playing and that's critical and what that needs to be aligned to is some good coaching to use feedback of their games to make further progress."

Finally, in the wake of the Socceroos successful friendly match against the English in early February, Smith is a firm believer that this game would boost the codes profile immensely.

"I think the opportunity to play any top quality opposition is invaluable. Most of the current Socceroos are based in Europe so Frank can get a better look at their performances on the pitch. The more games in Europe the Australians play, the better. Its great news, I'm sure Frank would be over the moon with this", concluded Smith.



**The AIS class of '86 coached by Ron Smith (far right) - with some familiar faces in the squad.**

# "Tenacious Tigers take on the World"

**Australia's Youth Soccer players are proving their worth on the international arena. Joseph Piazza reports.**

**T**HIS season could be one full of major individual plaudits for talented individuals who ply their trade with the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt-Empoli Football Academy.

Headed by one of the most successful Youth Coaches in Australian Soccer, John Romeo, a teacher at St Andrews College (John Paul II Senior Campus) Marayong, the Club is ambitiously steering towards another trophy-laden season.



**JOHN ROMEO: Apia's Technical Director.**

Having secured Italian Serie A giants Empoli as its sister club, A.P.I.A. is methodically gearing itself up for the massively anticipated Torneo Viareggio next February after a somewhat successful crusade there earlier this year.

"Results were not the reason that we went to Italy earlier this year," stated an exuberant coach, John Romeo.

"It was all about our players experiencing and learning the reality of playing against some of the best Youth teams in the World, and what it's like to train everyday in World class facilities," the coach continued.

Late last year, Romeo was given the stressful task of guiding a team good enough to take on some of the World's finest Youth players at the Viareggio Tournament, Italy, in February of this year. Romeo again is spearheading the touring party next February. The globally renowned

Viareggio Tournament, celebrating its 55th consecutive year, is seen as the most prestigious of its kind. Prior to FIFA establishing the World Youth Cup in 1977, the Viareggio Tournament was easily the World's biggest Youth Tournament.

Having formed a connection with Serie A Club Empoli, (the home of Australian Internationals Vincenzo Grella, and until this year Parma's newly signed midfielder Marco Bresciano, the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt players who impress whilst competing at Viareggio next February, will be given the chance to stay on and compete for a place in the Empoli Primavera (Under 20) squad and hopefully have the golden opportunity to secure a Serie A contract.

Although only five players who competed this year are still eligible for the squad, the Tigers have recruited some exciting new talent to the playing roster. Combined with the experience of the Sydney Club's coaching staff, A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers are ready to test themselves against the World's best in Italy next January.

Leigh Magri plus Carlo and Marino Musumeci have arrived at the Club after gaining experience with English Club Middlesbrough, and former Tiger Moussa Chahine, (after a stint in the US), is back in training after a career-threatening knee injury.

"Our squad, in terms of overseas experience, is much more accustomed to the rigours of what we will be up against."

"That's why I'm going to Italy with much more confi-

dence in the lads. I can guarantee you our boys will cause a stir," Romeo warned.

With the Club well into pre-season training and despite the squad is almost completely settled, Romeo is still in the hunt for a talented individual to include in his Elite squad.

"There was a totally unexpected withdrawal of a player recently, thus leaving an opening."

"We are looking for a very talented player between the ages of 17 and 19, who will be very committed to the team and is available to make the tour with us to Italy. It's going to be quite a long and rigorous season," he added.

With the basis of his squad being built on captain and attacking flank midfield-



**ROCKIE RESTUCCIA: Striker.**



**Nathon Foti: Captain and midfielder.**

er Nathon Foti, attacking midfielder Matthew Raciti, reliable goalkeeper Murray Nelson plus mobile goalscorers Rockie Restuccia and Robert Younis, (all five players who toured to Italy earlier this year), Romeo can find no qualms about a new player coming into his squad and fitting in well.

"Most of the team-members are relatively new to the Club and they haven't taken long to gel. So I'm quite convinced that a new player coming in wouldn't disrupt that gel," ended Romeo.

All enquiries are to be directed to A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt-Empoli Technical Director John Romeo on 0412 808 114.



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**MURRAY NELSON: Goalkeeper.**



# National League Round 9 Reports



## Northern Spirit Olympic Sharks

By Stuart Jones

decided to celebrate by throwing flares. The club should hold an internal investigation to find out who they were and they should be banned for life. Otherwise they will give a proud club like the Olympic Sharks a bad name.

In the opening twenty minutes the Sharks carved Spirit wide open time and time again through the middle.

On 18 minutes Andrew Packer played a great ball over the top to the advancing Joel Porter who ran onto the ball, dragged it away from goal, waited for the defender to slide the other way, watched Paul Henderson advance from the goal trying to cut down the angle before slotting it past him into the far corner of the goal. It was a magnificent piece of skill and showed all the patience of a veteran striker.

Right on half time Alex Tobin showed all his experience after Alex Wilkinson had missed a tackle turning the situation into

four on two. Tobin put in a terrific one on one tackle to counter the danger. Then a minute from the end Andy McDermott almost snuck in a goal at the far post from a Marcus Phillips cross but it was pushed away by Clint Bolton. The resulting corner saw Bolton save well from a Watts header. Either chance going in would have been unjustified based on the first half.

If the first half was magnificent stuff from the Sharks, and it was, then the second half was not at all the same. Spirit ended up winning the half and had more efforts on goal than the Sharks. They also managed to string a few passes together something they had been unable to do in the opening 45 minutes and something the Sharks had done so well in the first half. However through the half Olympic looked dangerous at times and still occasionally manage to carve them right up the middle.

On 68 minutes Tom Pondeljak showed all his class in putting his team 3-0 up. As the ball came through the defence there were five defenders to two Sharks attackers. Pondeljak still managed to get the ball then lined up his shot from 15 metres and slotted it into the corner of the net, low, and just centimetres away from the outstretched arms of Paul Henderson. It was another great goal from the Sharks.

On 78 minutes Vuko Tomasevic scored what looked a consolation goal with a brilliant direct free kick from 25 metres which he managed to keep along the ground and on target. A minute later Jade North nearly put the Sharks lead back to three but Henderson saved well.

Alex Tobin continued to cut off any attacks that came his direction whilst up front Spirit never gave up. With young Steve Baveas making his debut as a substitute on 83 minutes there were now five youth team players involved in the game for Spirit (Noel Spencer had been a late withdrawal with a virus forcing yet another youth player up the ranks).

With the last attack of the game Adam Kwasnik played the ball in



Sharks goalscorer Joel Porter shown closely monitored by Spirit defender Michael Cartwright.

from the left. Tomasevic shot but it was parried one handed by Clint Bolton.

Unfortunately for the Sharks the ball fell back into the path of the Tomasevic who somehow

contorted his body enough to loop the ball into the back of the net.

There was not enough time for another goal though as the kick off also heard the final whistle blown.



## Football Kingz Parramatta Power

By Daniel Kuziow

It was the home side's second win of the season and came when substitute Paul Urlovic grabbed the winner with just nine minutes to go.

It was a victory that did not begin to take shape until well into the second half with the home side being outplayed by

Parramatta. Only three minutes had elapsed on the clock when the visitors took a surprise lead. Following some sustained Kingz pressure a swift counter attack picked out Ahmad Elrich on the right flank. His cross picked out Kosta Salapasisids and he tapped in from close range.

Two minutes the Power could have had two when Elrich pounced on an under-hit Jonathon Taylor backpass. But the home team escaped as the speedy winger shot just wide.

It took some 25 minutes before the home time responded to the early setback as they pushed forward through Andy Vlahos, Patricio Almendra and Jeff Campbell.

The pressure seemed to have paid off when Vlahos got behind the defence, outwitted the goalkeeper and steered the ball toward the goal. But Alvin Ceccoli raced back and cleared it off the line and only a couple of minutes later a Kingz corner was swung in and from the edge of the area Taylor's goalbound shot was blocked on the line.

Just after the hour mark the Kingz pulled back an equaliser against the run of play. An attack down the left flank saw a cross swung into the Power penalty area that was turned into his own net by Brendan Renaud.

Desperate for the three points, the Kingz pressed forward and created plenty of chances. The best saw Almendra's shot brilliantly saved by Liam Reddy. But the winning goal finally came with nine minutes remaining. Harry Ngata crossed from the right and substitute Urlovic rifled in a volley in past the despairing Power custodian.



Football Kingz striker Paul Urlovic celebrates his winning goal with Andy Vlahos in their two-one win over the Parramatta Power.



## Newcastle United Marconi Stallions

By Panos Tagaroulis

A 6,132 strong crowd at Energy Australia Stadium witnessed a somewhat dull goalless draw between two NSL top six contenders.

Newcastle and Marconi were both looking to move a step closer to a top six berth despite their respective inconsistent starts to the season. Marconi coach Raul Blanco fielded a positive line up including three strikers in the starting eleven.

The 10th minute saw Marconi win a free kick when Tony Perinich was brought down by veteran United defender Andy Roberts. Perinich took the set piece quickly a few metres from the edge of the area, finding Darren McDonald unmarked in the box. McDonald saw his shot cannon off Scott Baillie on the edge of the six-yard box.

In the 19th minute after having held up play effectively Joe Spiteri laid the ball off perfectly into the path of Tony Perinich. Perinich glided past the challenge of Roberts and shot from the edge of the area. Daniel Beltrame parried the ball away, defusing the danger.

On 23 Ryan Griffiths broke free of Tony Sekulic on the left touchline. The young striker powered infield towards the edge of the area when his run has halted by Chad Gibson. Referee Con Diomis dished out the game's first yellow for Gibson's trip on Ryan Griffiths. Milan Blagojevic touched the ball onto Joel Griffiths whose shot from the set piece was deflected over the bar.

A minute before the interval, Marconi were awarded a dubious free kick for Milan Blagojevic's tackle on Alex Brosque. Robbie Enes blasted the resultant set piece just wide of Beltrame's left hand upright.

In the 51st minute Travis Dodd ran at the Marconi defence beating Shane Webb on the right side. He continued his run before floating in a dangerous

cross, which needed the reflexes of Marconi custodian Michael Turnbull to tip over the bar.

The 59th minute saw Robbie Middleby play a cross into the area for Joel Griffiths. The ball eventually found its way to Ryan Griffiths after a touch from Dodd. The youngest Griffiths brother saw his shot parried into the path of Joel who had his effort cleared from the line.

In the 63rd minute Travis Dodd was once again causing havoc on the right side when he dribbled past Webb. Dodd chipped the ball to the far post from the by-line. His inch perfect ball picked out Masi whose header cannoned off the left upright.

On 83 Dominic Longo conceded a foul for a late tackle on United's Joel Griffiths. On the resulting Blagojevic set piece Shane Webb pulled down Peter Tsekis in the penalty area. Despite calls from coach Ian Crook asking Travis Dodd to take the penalty Joel Griffiths stepped up to the spot. His effort came crashing back

off the upright with the speedy striker missing his first penalty this season.

Three minutes into injury time Marconi displayed a distinct lack of ambition after winning a dangerous free on the left side. This was clearly evident as they committed only two players forward. This allowed the United defence to clear the danger and secure a goalless home draw.

Travis Dodd shone in a match where clear-cut chances were few and far between sparking a lacklustre United performance. His introduction added a new dimension to their attack with the best of United's opportunities orchestrated by his mercurial footballing talents.

After the conclusion of the match United's Ian Crook was pleased with the one point saying, "After the first 45 we're happy to come away with something." Newcastle's coach commented, "We were second best at almost everything in the first half."

For the away side Joe Spiteri and Tony Perinich presented the greatest threat throughout the night but failed to conjure up that elusive goal.

Marconi's man in charge, Raul Blanco, was pleased with the draw considering United's home form stating, "I'd take one point from here gladly - to be honest."



Joel Griffiths missed a crucial penalty in the 85th minute that could have given Newcastle the win over the Stallions last Friday night.





# National League Round 9 Reports



	<b>South Melbourne</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Melbourne Knights</b>	<b>2</b>

By Alan Clark

**S**outh Melbourne won local bragging rights after its two-goal victory over Melbourne Knights at Bob Jane Stadium in a six-goal extravaganza, consigning their cross-town rivals to its first loss of the season.

The game turned during a five minute period midway through the second half sparked by returning midfielder Bill Damianos who smacked a 25 metre free-kick into the top corner of the net from a free-kick, and then minutes later, floated a corner onto the head of Nick Tolios who netted close-in.

"(South coach) Danny (Wright) told us before the game that it was between me and Steve Panopoulos (to take free-kicks). I just felt confident and stepped up to take it, and it went in," Damianos said.

"It was the strength of the squad that got the result today," said Wright after the game.

Despite the loss, Knights' player-coach Andrew Marth drew some comfort from the fact that there were a number of youngsters being fielded by both sides who are holding their own at NSL level. "Knights have always relied on the young boys coming through. We're going to push these young guys (to the fore) as much as we can."

If the six goals weren't enough to give the ten-thousand in attendance something to talk about, then two send-offs, and a crunching tackle that sent South's New Zealand international Vaughan Coveny crashing to the ground unconscious certainly would have.

South's scorers were captain Paul Trimboli from an early penalty, Peter Buljan, Damianos, and Tolios. Knights responded through Leon Buhic and Ante Pelikan.

Both sides played the entire second half a player down after referee Hugo Brett gave South's Buljan and Knights' Nick Sabljak their second cautions late in the half in unrelated incidents.

Trimboli converted a second-minute penalty after Buhic had fouled Panopoulos as a corner was floated into the penalty-area for a simple decision from referee Brett Hugo.

Buhic made up for his transgression just after the half-hour when a cross from the left fell handily for Pelikan at the far post. Pelikan's clever cut-back was headed in from point-blank range from the Croatian import in a move that dissected the South defence.

But if Knights' players thought that their hard work had paid off, South went ahead again straight from the re-start. Trimboli had fed Damianos, who in turn found Buljan with a defence-splitting pass, allowing Buljan a direct run on goal. Knights' keeper Martin John came out to challenge, but Buljan coolly slotted home at the near post.

It was to prove Buljan's last involvement in the game as just before the break he pulled back Buhic in the penalty-area and received his second yellow-card following his caution for a misdemeanour early in the game. Pelikan converted the penalty and Knights seemed set for the advantage of a player up for the duration of the second-half.

However, Sabljak was also given his sec-

ond caution in first-half added time after a clash with Panopoulos, leaving the game finely balanced at two-all and ten men apiece.

Both coaches made changes during the interval in a bid to wrest control of the game and re-align their depleted resources. Knights' Henry Fa'arodo came on for an injured Marth, and South replaced the hard-working David Clarkson for Coveny.

Coveny found himself in the thick of things from his first minutes on the park. He first drew a caution for a foul and then - timing his run perfectly to take advantage of a through-ball from Murdocca - launched a cross from the bye-line, but sent it too close to John with Trimboli and Vince Lia waiting to pounce.

The speedy Kiwi however was to have a short period on the park, needing to be stretchered off after a sickening aerial duel with Rodrigo Vargas which earned Vargas a caution. But this incident was not to arise until midway through the second-half after South had taken a two-goal lead.

"(Coveny) was knocked-out before he hit the ground," said a tight-lipped Wright.

South regained the lead just after the hour direct from a free-kick 30 metres out taken expertly by Damianos into the top corner. Trimboli had been fouled in a tan-



South Melbourne defender Patrick Kisnorbo keeps a lookout on Knights import Leon Buhic during last Sunday's derby that ended in South's favour four-two.

gle of players.

Tolios then stretched South's advantage with a towering header from a Damianos corner. Ray Sekulovski, who had replaced the injured Coveny, then had two fine chances within minutes of his introduction, but was not able to add to the South tally.

	<b>Sydney United</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Adelaide C.F.</b>	<b>1</b>

By Peter Damalas

**A**double strike from Jon Angelucci ensured Sydney United three valuable points in a sea sawing encounter against Adelaide City.

In a game that provided end-to-end football, United and the Force displayed the virtues of Australian soccer. Both teams created a number of goalscoring opportunities in the 90 minutes, however a combination of poor finishing and bad luck kept the scoreboard down. The first half of the match was characterised by crisp lead up work that often went unrewarded.

United midfielder Louis Brain, appearing against his former club, forced Daniel Godley into a full stretch save early on, while a header from All White forward, Shane Smeltz was tipped over the bar by Vanja Ivesa.

The New Zealand international would miss another two glorious chances, a sidefoot near the six yard box and a one on one with Sydney's 'keeper early in the second period.

Branko Culina's team adapted well with a tactical reshuffle, from 5-3-2 to 4-4-2. Midfielder Ante Deur was particularly effective down the right flank, as he was capably supported by Bozidar Cacic.

The home side took the lead in first half stoppage time, but not before a sustained period of pressure by Adelaide City.

First, 36 year old striker Claudio Pelosi opted to shoot when a square ball was the better option, then Scott Tunbridge's deflected attempt at goal hit the top of the crossbar. Brendan Santalab, fast becoming one of the players of the season, set up Angelucci for an easy tap-in after he beat Carl Veart to the byline. The former goal

poacher clearly struggled with Santalab's pace, as Sydney United focused their attacks down the left. Adelaide City were duly punished for failing to put away their chances, as United went to the break a goal to the good.

The second half came alive twenty minutes in, when 205cm Ivesa did enough to deter former Socceroo Aurelio Vidmar, who was clear on goal. His monster clearance found Angelucci, whose delicate lob was cleared, before a Gabriel Mendez shot was saved. In the 73rd minute, Culina brought on pinch-hitter Anthony Doumanis for the tired Gabriel Mendez, and his contribution had a decisive influence on the outcome.

United managed to miss two gilt-edged opportunities in two minutes. Brendan Santalab, in possession in Adelaide's half, played across to strike partner Angelucci, who controlled well before and chipped the advancing 'keeper, only to hit the crossbar. He returned the favour soon afterwards, passing to Santalab who struck his shot into the stands.

Charlie Villani's 3rd placed team equalised four minutes later through Vidmar after lead up work from Pantelis and Pelosi. Like the first goal, Adelaide City scored against the run of play, and the United goalkeeper was booked for protesting.

However, Angelucci was not to be denied, and crowned a commendable performance up front with the clincher in the 87th minute. The goal was created by substitute Doumanis, whose inventive chip set up Angelucci for the shot.

After a loan spell at sister club, Johor in Malaysia, Jon Angelucci two goal haul has confirmed his importance to Sydney United.

	<b>Perth Glory</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Wollongong Wolves</b>	<b>1</b>

By Richard Kreider

**P**erth Glory's former coach Bernd Stange was an undisputed success story during his spell at the Western Australian club where the German's personality continually won over the fans and media alike.

Now, the club has another German in energetic midfielder Andre Gumprecht, who almost single-handedly affected the downfall of the Wollongong Wolves at Perth Oval last Sunday.

Gumprecht, who turns 28 next Tuesday, played a major role in Glory's 3-1 victory with his aggression, vision and meticulous passing - no doubt developed from his time at Serie A side Lecce as an 18-year old and later at Bayer Leverkusen.

The former German youth international has since got over the trauma of his wife and child's overcoming a near-fatal illness a few weeks ago and is now starting to show what he is really capable of as a quality footballer.

For the Wolves, it was a result that never looked like being anything else but a Perth victory, which was well appreciated by a healthy 12,801 audience that included the WA Premier, Geoff Gallop. Glory chairman Nick Tana must have breathed a sigh of relief by the largest crowd of the season, especially after seeing the clubs second-lowest gate at just the last home fixture. Certainly, a free-ticket promotion to all club members would have played its part.

Apart from the typical tenacity of campaigner David Cervinski, and the nuisance value of skipper Stuart Young up front, the Wolves youngsters struggled with the pace of their opponents.

The goalkeeper's single lapse of indecision which gave the home side their second goal certainly didn't help their cause either. "He (Andrew Crews) has kept us in games all season so I can't crucify him for one mistake," said Wolves boss Ron Corry, who made 27 full 'A' class games in goal for the Socceroos.

"Glory was much better than we were today, especially in the first-period. They probably had more chances in the second-half but couldn't capitalise on them."

Although the Wolves' only goal was a soft penalty, Corry still insisted the Perth defence was not as strong as it has been in the past.

"If they were playing against a good team with good strikers and they pulled one back, they would have got another three," he said, yet in the same breath Corry did predict Glory will be among the championship challengers.

"You've got Perth, Newcastle and Olympic, who will be up there and it will be a dog fight for the other three."

The game got off to a blistering pace and it was the visitors who had the opening opportunity after 12 minutes when Shane Lyons, son of rugby icon Cliff Lyons, was slow to pounce onto a loose ball when just metres in front, after Jason Petkovic had failed to hang on to a tricky grass-level strike.

Glory responded just two minutes later with the opening goal, which started from a blistering run from Gumprecht. Instead of attacking Crews with his final touch, the clever midfielder unselfishly slipped the ball square to the oncoming Brad Hassell, who coolly drilled the ball past the goalkeeper's left hand.

Hassell might have had no problem in netting his 50th NSL goal, but it was his corner-kick-

ing that was lacking quality. So, up stepped Scott Miller to take a 23rd minute corner, which he curled over to the six-yard line, which is normally bread and butter material for goalkeepers. For reasons known only to Crews, he chose to remain on the goal-line, which gave Nick Mrdja an open door to climb high and head home his first goal of the season.

Perth were now in cruise control, but this came screeching to a halt after 36 minutes when referee Peter Green, who had a good game up until then, decided to award the Wolves a penalty after Glory defender David Tarka and Zeljko Babic got entangled inside the area.

"Dodgy" was assistant coach Alan Vest's opinion of the decision and, "harsh because I lost the ball in the sun," was Tarka's. Nevertheless, Young strolled up and calmly steered the ball high into the net past Petkovic's right hand.

That however, was the Wolves' only moment of grandeur as the home side continued to maintain their ascendancy. Perth restored their two-goal buffer two minutes before the interval when Hassell finished what Gumprecht and Mori created, by tapping the ball into net at the far upright.

The home side had many more opportunities in the second period, but their final touch was to let them down on each occasion.

Bobby Despotovski, who would have little trouble in being in the first eleven of the other NSL clubs, came off the bench with just two minutes left in the game.

And it will be interesting to see how much patience the Socceroo has, with Mrdja keeping the striker out of the side - especially after he turned in another excellent game.



Perth's Brad Hassell was his side's hero as he bagged a brace in their three-one home win over the Wollongong Wolves.



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# VICTORIAN CHRONICLES



By Brendon Davis

**A**dam Crozier's resignation as CEO of the English FA mirrors the conflict and complications being endured by our Soccer Australia.

Scotsman Crozier joined the FA in 1999. His major achievements include the resolution of the Wembley disaster, secured Sven-Goran Eriksson as English coach and moved the FA to modern efficient offices (from their rabbit warren at Lancaster Gate).

His reign was cut short as he opposed the Professional Game Board, a Board intended to run the Premier League, leaving the FA to run the FA Cup, English internationals and discipline, a similar proposal being considered by Australian Soccer currently. It's a model essentially adopted by the Dutch and German leagues.

Conflict is brewing between the Premier League Clubs and the FA over commercial interests with Crozier siding against the powerful clubs. As FA Chairman Geoff Thompson or his board did not support his position, Crozier says he was "forced to resign on principle".

Locally Chairman Knop has fallen from favour with his board, he was over ruled by his board on the critical television issue and has faced constant calls to resign from most quarters within Australian Soccer. Knop however has steadfastly refused to resign despite the arduous nature of his tenure.

Crozier was likely forced to resign following the strong opposition he faced from Chelsea's Ken Bates, Nick Tana is the local version of Ken Bates and he is vehemently opposed to Knop's reign continuing.



Ian Knop: Has fallen out of favour with his current board.

And Crozier had an outstanding management pedigree, joining the FA from the prestigious ranks of multinational advertising giant Saatchi and Saatchi while Ian Knop is a respected company director and former Big 7 accounting partner.

But while English Football is

more popular than ever, despite the financial problems facing many clubs, Australia's NSL will soon be read its last rights.

Justifiably or not, Knop and Nick Griener have lost the confidence of the stakeholders so they must move on. Soccer politics are tough politics and will always be involved in our sport.

But Australian soccer can't sustain its constant political war, unity is required for our flagship national competition, be it the NSL or the mooted APL to survive and prosper.

While Crozier leaves the EPA in a diplomatic manner, as a respected administrator and highly regarded by even his harshest critics, Ian Knop will probably be forced out of office in a less honourable fashion. To preserve some dignity he should resign — and soon.

## AND PAY THE CLUBS COMPENSATION

**A**s debate rages in Europe over clubs receiving compensation for players on international duties its time for all soccer authorities to address the same issue.

Clubs pay the wages for players; they pay the coaching staff and invest millions in transfer fees.

When players are seconded for international duties, at whatever level, its only equitable the wages for the period are met by the seconding party; the international team. This has to involve the

employment on costs, superannuation, payroll tax and player insurance.

## APL UNDER FIRE

**B**efore its been formally launched the Unions model for the restructured national league, the Australian Professional League (APL) is under attack on many fronts.

Designed by the players union in conjunction with an external consulting firm, at a cost said to be approaching \$300,000 the PFA the model was the subject of a stinging attack from Perth Glory veteran Damian Mori who wrote of his strong opposition in The West Australian newspaper today.

Mori like many local players fear the consequences of the national league being forced to suspend its matches for a year to force the less financial clubs from the competition. Players would be forced to secure other employment, with many likely to move to Asia suggests Mori. He says this would further deplete the pool of quality footballers in our competition. Others would be forced from professional soccer.

And, as is too often the case, the soccer politics rival those of the ALP.

Nick Tana of Perth Glory is reported to be wavering in his determination to remove Ian Knop as Soccer Australia President, not because of performance but simply to deny his rival and sworn enemy Paul Afkos from taking over the prestigious office. The two co-

founders of the Perth Glory franchise have since fallen out, with Tana having bought Afkos out of the successful club.

As ABSW goes to press, there are moves afoot to remove Remo Nogarotto from his office based on his support for the APL. The moves against him are allegedly coming from interests associated with clubs opposing the APL, namely Wollongong, Adelaide, Sydney United and Marconi. The Melbourne Knights may also support the move.

Those seeking his removal have suggested the replacement could be outspoken Sydney Olympic General Manager and former player, Peter Raskopoulos.

Over Monday and Tuesday the general meeting of SA will vote on a motion to remove Ian Knop from his post.

This meeting was initially scheduled to be held in Melbourne earlier this month but was delayed due to the PFA being "unavailable".

In a further remarkable turn of events, the PFA will not be attending the Sydney meeting either.

Rather, a delegate told the SA meeting told ABSW the Union has now approached several high profile Australians playing in Europe, seeking their support and possible financial support for the PFA proposal. Leeds United front man Harry Kewell was specifically mentioned.

Supposedly the PFA believe the support of the expatriate Australian footballers will assist in having their model adopted.



Remo Nogarotto: Seemingly at the mercy of several NSL clubs.

The PFA, according to this senior official, will be launching their model publicly on 27th November, either in Australia or in London.

In a week where soccer has received headlines for positive reasons given the announcement of the international friendly against England in February, the first ever between the two countries to be played on English soil, infighting and politics again embarrassed our football code.

*Next Week — Brendon Davis speaks soccer with State opposition Leader Robert Doyle, a week out from the Victorian Election*

## PENAROL FINISH UNDEFEATED

**T**ouring Uruguayan side Penarol completed a highly successful tour of Australia following victories over NSL sides the Wollongong Wolves and Marconi.

In their first match against the south coast side on Tuesday night, the South Americans cruised to victory with a thorough demolition of the Wolves by six goals to one.

Five first half goals, two in the first 20 minutes, soon had the NSL side on the back foot and striker Fabian Canobbio was the stand-out as he helped himself to a hat-trick, while Daniel Jimenez scored twice and Fabian Stoyanof added another.

It took Penarol only ten minutes to open the scoring against a virtually full strength side. Only Naum Sekulovski was missing from the side that had beaten Northern Spirit 2-1 at the same ground two days earlier.

Three unstoppable goals in the last eight minutes of the first half turned the game into a very one-sided contest before the visitors made seven changes at the break.

Wollongong, who made only two changes themselves, then managed to pull a goal back from the penalty spot, courtesy of Stuart Young.

However, Penarol were able to round off a wonderful performance with a sixth goal to wind up convincing winners and earn the admiration of the relatively small but boisterous crowd.

In their second game, Penarol came up against a rejuvenated Marconi outfit, but once again stole the honours with an easy 3-1 victory.

The South Americans took the lead in the 35th minute with an own goal by defender Shane Webb and

Fabian Canobbio added the second four minutes later.

Chad Gibson pulled one back for the Stallions with a penalty nine minutes into the second half, but Penarol skipper Pablo Bengoechea had the last word with their third goal, also from the penalty spot.

Meanwhile, Marconi has made the most of Penarol's visit by reportedly signing 29-year-old defender Nano.

Stallions coach Raul Blanco told tribalfutbol.com: "He is a very experienced player and he has been training with us this week already."

Ruben Fernando Dos Santos, better known as Nano, is a former Marseille player and should add some more steel to the Stallions defence.



## MORTON FIRE MCPHERSON

By Richard Kreider

**F**ormer Carlton SC player-coach Dave McPherson has been axed as manager of Scottish Football League club Greenock-Morton after just eight months at the helm.

The former Rangers, Hearts and Scotland defender, who also made 42 appearances for the now defunct National Soccer League side Carlton, was removed from his position because the Morton Board believed the Cappielow club had underachieved.

McPherson (38) follows Peter Cormack, the man he took over from in March, who ironically, also had eight months in charge.

In a brief announcement, the Board said they felt the team had underachieved and, "in view of the sizeable investment made in both players and ground renovation, it was unanimously agreed that an experienced manager should be appointed to take the club forward in a playing sense," said a club spokesman.

Meanwhile, former Scotland player David Hopkin, who was apparently brought to the Clyde river club by the board and not



Dave McPherson has been given the flick as coach of Greenock-Morton.

McPherson, has hung up his boots.

Hopkin (32), who rejoined Morton after ten successful years in the English Premiership and, more recently the English First Division, has had to give up the game due to injury.

Although there are currently no plans to appoint Hopkin as McPherson's successor, he has been appointed caretaker-coach and was in the charge of the team last Saturday, which lost 2-1 away to Albion Rovers, who scored both goals in the final two minutes of the game.

## Farina warns Sven

**A**ustralia coach Frank Farina has called on England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson not to turn February's friendly between the two teams into a substitution shambles.

The Socceroos meet England for the first time on English soil - at West Ham's Upton Park on February 12 - and Farina will not agree to a game which allows for unlimited substitutes.

"I would suspect Eriksson will field his best side," said Farina, aware that England used seven replacements against Portugal in a recent friendly.

"I would hope he is taking

this game seriously and to that end there is no way I will allow him to do what he did when England played Portugal in a friendly in September which turned the game into a farce and a joke."

Under FIFA rules, both countries have to agree on the terms and conditions under which the game will be played, although Farina's comments make it clear he will not be dictated to.

Farina will use his best squad - to be made up exclusively of his overseas-based contingent - and has warned his players there will be no excuse for not being available.

"It will be international week so the Premier League guys will have no commitments," he added. "I expect the players I select to be there for the game"



Socceroo coach Frank Farina has warned English coach Sven Goran Eriksson to field his A-list squad.





# QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

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## Super Saturday Scoring Spree

By Paul Schiavo

**G**oals, goals and more goals were the order of the day in Round 2 of the Super Summer League fixtures. 16 goals were scored and at this early stage Qld Lions look like the team to beat as they are the only team so far to have registered two wins out of two.

**Queensland Lions . . . . .5**  
**Far North Coast Suns .(2-0) 0**

Qld Lions welcomed the visit of Soccer Far North Coast Suns this weekend in the second round of fixtures in the Super Summer League.

This was the Sun's first foray into Qld territory and they were looking to make amends for their first round loss against Sunshine Coast. The Northern Rivers area has produced some fine footballers with two former players-Todd Gava and Matt Olley-current members of both Qld Lions and the State side.

In what could only be described as the worst possible start for the visitors, a Sun's defender lost possession of the ball just outside his area and when the ball fell to Danny Flaskas he rounded another defender and sent the ball into the bottom right hand corner of the net. All this in the first TWO minutes of the match. The Suns were thrown by the early goal and the Lions began to dominate proceedings.

Lions were looking dangerous out wide and it was only fine goalkeeping by Neil Thomas that saved the Suns from being completely out of the game. One particular reflex save off a Chris Di Sipio header in the 12th minute was outstanding.

The Sun's only forays into the Lion's attacking third were from free kicks floated into the area or the occasional long ball but this didn't trouble the Lion's defense of Wilson, Lowe and Sciardi until a poorly weighted back pass saw Lion's keeper Griffin McMaster stop Sun's striker Jed Wright from opening their account.

Lions continued to look likely to score a second and with 28 minutes gone a Damien Volker long ball across the park caught the Sun's defenders ball-watching and Shaman Lee had the easiest of tasks to slot home the second to make it 2-0 to Lions.

Again it was all Lions with Thomas again being

called into action in the 32nd minute, this time making a double save off Shaman Lee. The three and a half hour bus trip was starting to take its toll on the Suns but in the 35th minute a long ball caught the Lion's defense square and only a covering tackle by Danny Wilson kept the scoreline unchanged.

This seemed to lift the Suns and in their best period of the half had two opportunities to score, both falling to Jordi Campbell. The first, a one on one with McMaster after chasing a through ball that caught the Lion's defense square and the second a poor kick from McMaster that fell at Campbell's feet only for the attacker to round the keeper and place his shot high over the crossbar from inside the box.

The half ended almost as it started with Thomas again being called into action after a one touch passage of play from Hughes, Di Sipio and Volker. Lions were clearly the dominant side however with the score at only 2-0 the Suns were still in the contest.

Whatever coach Mathew Kelso said at half time to the Sun's players seemed to spark them into action and in the opening 10 minutes of the half they had a number of chances to score, the best of these a Jed Wright header off an Adam Holmes cross. Ten minutes later Wright saw another header from inside the area go just wide of the mark.

Then in the 68th minute against the run of play, a foul on substitute Scott Royal led to free-kick about 30 metres out. Up until this stage Neil Thomas was having a superb game in goals but in a rare case of bad judgment, he watched the well stuck Damien Volker free-kick find its way into the bottom right hand corner of the net. 3-0 to Lions. Game over.

Both teams now were making their final substitutions but still the Suns were making chances.

Then in the 90th minute a one-two between Adam Bostock and Jordi Campbell on the edge of the Lion's area was broken up by Jared Lowe. The ball found its way for substitute Daniel Ryan to hit a screamer from 20 metres that gave Thomas no chance.

4-0 Lions and still there was more for the Suns to endure as a cross from the left saw a Sun's defender go close to scoring an own-goal only for Thomas to unfortunately palm the ball into the path for Terry Hughes to score from only a metre out.

Final score Qld Lions 5 Soccer Far North Coast Suns 0

Suns coach Mathew Kelso was "disappointed" with his teams first half performance saying his boys

## QLD SUPER SUMMER LEAGUE NEXT WEEK FIXTURES

All Games Kick-Off at 7.00pm

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23**

**SUNSHINE COAST**

**VS**

**QUEENSLAND LIONS**

Maroochydore Regional SC, Maroochydore Rd, KULUIN QLD

**GOLD COAST CITY**

**VS**

**ROCHEDALE ROVERS**

Palm Beach Soccer Club, Mallowa Drive Sports Complex, PALM BEACH QLD

**SOCCER FAR NORTH COAST**

**VS**

**TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS**

Club Goonellabah, Reserve Street, Goonellabah. QLD

"lacked the intensity of last week" He also thought that the three and a half hour bus trip got them off to a slow start. He was happier with their second half performance as they tightened up in the midfield and created a number of chances. He believes this game will help him build for the visit of Toowoomba next week. He is also happy to be playing in the League even if it will take "a while to reach the Premier League level".

Lion's coach Gary Johnson was happy with the win and especially the first half performance. He has seen most of his squad in the last two games and feels that the drop in the second half intensity was due to the number of changes. As Gary says "The 2-0 scoreline at the end of the first half flattered them but the 5-0

scoreline at the end flattered us."

Best for Lions were Danny Flaskas and Michael Sciardi whilst for the Suns Neil Thomas in goals and Jed Wright and Jordi Campbell stood out.

**Rochdale Rovers . . . .4**  
**Toowoomba . . . . .(3-2) 2**

In an entertaining encounter at Underwood Park Rochdale Rovers finally got the measure of Toowoomba but they had to come from behind twice to do so.

## QUEENSLAND SUPER SUMMER LEAGUE

### Results & Table

QUEENSLAND LIONS . . . . .5	SOCCER FAR NORTH COAST . . .0
GOLD COAST CITY . . . . .4	SUNSHINE COAST . . . . .1
ROCHEDALE ROVERS . . . . .4	TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS . . . . .2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qld Lions	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Gold Coast City	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Rochdale	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Sunshine Coast	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Toowoomba	2	0	1	1	3	3	1
S.F.N.C. Lismore	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

## Leave Bosnich alone says Soccerroo

**S**occerroo goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer has called for his countryman Mark Bosnich to be left in peace as he battles depression and drug allegations.

Bosnich is alleged to have tested positive for cocaine - the first English Premier League soccer player to return a positive test for a Class A drug.

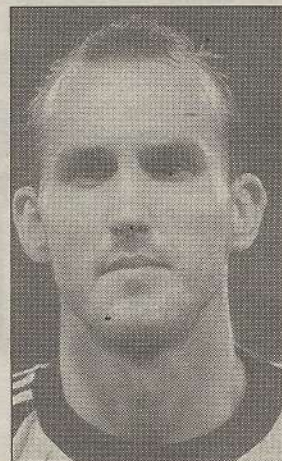
He could face a two-year ban and have his \$110,000 a week contract with English club Chelsea ripped up if found guilty of using the drug.

But Schwarzer, the man who took over the Australian goalkeeper's jersey from Bosnich, said the 30-year-old should be allowed time and space to get his life and career back on track.

"I just hope he recovers," Schwarzer said.

"At the moment there's a lot of speculation and no one knows the whole truth. Only he knows the truth.

"But I hope he manages to recover and sort everything out.



Mark Schwarzer



# Letters to the Editor

## No Vision or Skill in OZ - Part 2

Dear Sir,  
In reference to Fabian's letter two weeks ago regarding the disillusionment of Aussie soccer and coaches, all I can do is smile and shake my head in Agreement that is.

It is an attitude that I'm sure the majority of the Australian soccer community who are focused on skillful & innovative play would also agree with.

It has always surprised me that a soccer nation who's national side has never really achieved anything, and who's National League is a disgrace, can afford to have the arrogance and ordacity to let so many great players slip through the system, instead, opting for big, tough "rugby" style of players and play for that matter that European

leagues and coaches would laugh at.

I've often said that even players like Paulo Di Canio and Del Piero would be criticized if playing in this country for taking more than two touches...that's if they actually made the team for refusing to simply pump the ball up the field.

And we wonder why the National League does not get crowds and is struggling for TV coverage.

It is simply very unattractive to watch. It is extremely robotic, with players lacking any spontaneity and flare, which in part I believe is reflective on the Australian soccer coaches boring and uninspiring style of play and choice of players.

I am within the 20-27 year old age bracket that Fabian referred to

in the letter, and I'm positive that I'd be able to field a National league side of players who have opted to play in the State league (many of whom probably earn more money than a lot of the National League players) and players who have quit the game altogether due to their skillful and spontaneous style of play not being appreciated in this country.

So further to Fabian's closing statement, I add, well done Coaches, open your eyes, if you want 6ft robots, go pick your players from a Science exhibition...or a Rugby League pitch. And some free advice... although a player is not one of the Director's sons or the major sponsors nephew's, they may still be worthy of a contract.

And to all the Clubs and Silvio Berlusconi wannabe's who like to believe they are extremely important and in charge of the next Real Madrid, just for once, try focusing on the players rather than your financial problems and political crap, which takes up the majority of your efforts and is ruining the game.

Regards,  
From the email  
Gigi Molipo

## S.O.S. NICK POLITIS

Dear Sir,  
I have spent the last 13 years conditioning soccer clubs, referees, and individual players and this season I am back at it with the Blacktown City Demons in the NSW Premier League competition.

I have had some major successes along the way by winning 3 First Grade Grand Finals with 2 different clubs as well as helping some referees and some individual players further their careers with the last 2 notables being Nick Carle formerly of your club Sydney Olympic now playing in France and Vuko Tomasevic a former Premier League player of mine now playing National League with Northern Spirit.

I am a very passionate sports fan and love most sports but I am truly very concerned about the lack of real leadership and lack of direction in Australian Soccer.

Australian Soccer has been criticised a hell of a lot lately by both local and overseas players, the media, the fans, the Tew remaining sponsors and everyone else I speak to. It is an absolute disgrace that our sports premier

national competition doesn't even have a major sponsor and now we don't even have television coverage.

What I am asking of you Mr Politis is your help to rescue our game, not a band aid approach as in the past but a real fair dinkum overhaul and turn it around from the ground up to give this sport a true chance of survival in this country.

Mr Politis your track record speaks for itself. You are a very successful businessman, you have made Sydney Olympic successful and now after 26 years of trying you have made Sydney Roosters champions. Without you both Olympic and the Roosters probably wouldn't be around today. Men I respect like Phil Gould, James Packer, Brad Fittler and Alan Jones can't speak more highly of you and even Nick Carle told me you were a "freak of a man".

Mr Politis I know soccer has cost you a lot of money personally and Rugby League a lot more but I am not talking about your money. I want, and this sport needs successful non-egotistical leadership to drive it forward and you are the perfect leader. We all need a strong competition and a say in the way it should go. I am lucky enough to have a lot of friends through soccer and a lot



Nick Politis

of my friends ex-internationals like Doug Utjesenovic, Manfred Schaefer, Adrian Alston and Alex Robertson all have a lot to offer but no one is listening. It truly is time to get rid of the old to make way for the new because our ship is well and truly sinking.

Mr Politis, I once read a quote from G.K. Chesterton which said: "There is a great man who makes every man feel small, but the real great man is the man who makes every man feel great."

Our sport needs a great man to make us all feel good. Please help our sport Mr Politis.

Nick Bilbija,  
Cabramatta NSW.

## No Soccer Next Year

Dear Sir,  
After reading comments in ABSW last week regarding PFA chairman Brendan Schwab's decision to take 12 months off next season for a huge reform process of the National League, one must argue this man's logic?

It is no secret that the National League itself has struggled immensely the past couple of years and this year has seen the code at its worst without gaining a major sponsor for the National League.

Cutting teams next season would be the likely option but taking time off would be a disaster!

In that proposed 12-month lay-off what does Schwab suggest the players will do in that time frame? Sure the likely option is playing

in the local leagues but what development or competition would that be for these players.

After playing in Australia's elite competition the guys would be taking a step back in their careers by playing second level football.

I hope that SA realize that this is not an option to go through, but then again, the relationship between the PFA and SA haven't been that rosy so I guess this is just all talk but Schwab.

Whatever happens let's hope that the game itself is the winner and it progress to where it rightfully belongs here in Australia as the number one sport.

Noel Stevens,  
Greenvale,  
VIC.

## SHAME ON YOU SEVEN!

Dear Sir,  
Why oh why didn't Channel Seven at least provide a camera for footage of one the best NSL game ever at South Melbourne a few weeks back?

South Melbourne and the Olympic Sharks both played great football and it is sad that others apart from those at the ground didn't see a great and exciting game.

There are not enough adjectives to describe how thrilling this match was.

And no one will ever see it because the game was never preserved for others to watch.

Shame on you Seven!

Zlatko Cricitic  
North Sunshine  
VIC

## PENAROL MAGIC

Dear Sir,  
Just wanted to praise the efforts of South American club Penarol in their recent showing last week in Wollongong with the side ripping up the Wolves six-one with ease.

South American flair was in the air that night with Penarol dancing all over their National League opponents.

It could have been more than six but I guess the boys put the breaks on after the score was too much for Ron Corry's team to handle.

I think we need more matches like this in Australia as it displays the world game at its best. The South Americans really know how to put on a show full of tricks like back heels, bicycle kicks and no look passes, the game was a pleasure to watch.



I know I speak for the many that attended the match that this was a great game to view and that we would like to see more international sides swing past our way in Wollongong in the near future.

Pat Scirbes,  
Bulli, NSW.

## GOOD ONE 'BOZZA'

Dear Sir,  
What on earth is going on in Mark Bosnich's head at the moment?

The guy is on a pretty healthy pay packet and yet he was tested positive for cocaine?

What's the deal there? I'm a real fan of Bosnich, I think he's a terrific keeper and like most people have stated, his mouth has got him into a lot of trouble but I think Bozza has taken it a bit too far now. With these accusations against the guy, I doubt whether any club would want to sign him.

I think we might even see Mark return back to Australia if all else fails in Europe - that would certainly boost the status of the National League.

It's such a sad story however, one minute he was keeper of one of the best clubs in the world (Manchester United) and now he's a third string



Mark Bosnich

keeper at Chelsea doing nothing but train on his own.

A story line probably worth pursuing in Hollywood!

Steve Stanic,  
Fairfield, NSW.

## 'SPITFIRE' ALL RIGHT

Dear Sir,  
Just want to comment on Stallions new striker Joe Spiteri's recent run to fame after scoring four goals in as many matches.

This guy has certainly grabbed the headlines at Marconi, since his inclusion to the squad the club has won twice. This could go down as being one of the signing's of the season.

It's good to see that ABSW had given Spiteri player of the week twice in a row, it was only just that the man received some kind of accolade from the press.

Let's see how long the

'Spitfire' can spark this Stallions revival?

Mark Capizzi,  
Botany, NSW.



Joe Spiteri

## National League Crowds

Dear Sir,  
Is it just me or are we sensing an economic drought in our football pitches across Australia? Crowds have decreased and the league itself is yet to tag down a major sponsor and TV rights, what's going on?

I hope the new directors elected at Soccer Australia will look at these alarming figures and hope that they can do something in fixing up the game's profile.

Fancy seeing no more than two and half thousand at a top of the table clash between the Sharks and Newcastle? You know when something is wrong when our leaders in crowd attendances

Perth Glory have their crowd averages slashed by half, 7 thousand in their last home game is pretty disappointing.

I think we do have the product, it's the marketing aspect that's been the let down for quite some time now.

The days of watching sell-out matches at Pratten Park etc have all but vanished, Soccer Australia take note - end your squabbling and fix this game up in Australia, in the past you guys have been known as killers of the game, try and fix it now, for the sake of the game!

Michael Vella  
Ryde, NSW

## RE: Praise for Jamie

Dear Sir,  
In response to Scott Murphy's letter written up in last week's ABSW I'd like to add more on the McMaster issue.

I think the young player has been harshly treated by the local media, we hardly hear anything about him.

After gaining a few minutes here and there for Leeds' first team squad, no mention of how he played in the Australian media was evident.

What does Jaime have to do in order to gain some positive media attention?

I've heard from a friend in England that is a Loyal Leeds supporter that young McMaster is one of the side's best talents and will be given more time as the year progresses.

Well done Scott, good to see someone getting the ball rolling on players that deserve some credit.

From the email  
Josh Kitson



# OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

## VILLANI DEFUSES PROBLEM

If a book should be written on how to deal with problems within a soccer club I would have no hesitation in recommending Adelaide City Force coach Charley Villani as the author.

One can only admire the transparent manner Villani displayed in dealing with a potentially morale damaging training incident involving Goran Lozanovski on the Friday night before the home match against South Melbourne.

In modern terminology, Lozanovski "spat the dummy," when criticised about some aspects of his play, with the result that Villani omitted him from the team for the Sunday game.

The omission of the former South Melbourne star was a strong point of discussion when the team sheets were delivered

to the Hindmarsh Stadium press area.

Naturally, the matter was raised at the post-match press conference when Villani gave a refreshingly candid reply.

"Goran reacted poorly after we spoke to him about elements of his game and we took the decision to leave him out of the South Melbourne game," Villani said.



**Charley Villani: Laid down the law with Force player Goran Lozanovski a few weeks ago.**

Villani revealed that Lozanovski trained with the squad during the Saturday session, an action that confirmed the opinion of the coach that the former Olyroo is a true professional.

"I expect Goran to come back stronger than ever. He's a very talented player and an essential member of the squad."

## SEARCH FOR SA COACH

The search has begun to find a replacement for SA State team coach Michael Barnett and State team manager Denis Harlow.

Barnett had to step down from the post after accepting to coach Premier League club MetroStars, while Harlow reluctantly vacated his position because of an excessive workload as author of the SA History of Soccer and his role as SA Year Book editor.

SASF vice chairman, Arthur DiFede, whose portfolio includes the senior State team, said he expected decisions on the replacements would be made by next week.

"We have a short list of candidates for the coaching position," DiFede said. "Essentially, it's important that the State coach not be connected with a club because we believe that club coaches are too busy to cope with both jobs."

With all Premier League coaching positions filled for next season, there are a number of high credentialled coaches currently "unemployed."

Those who spring readily to mind are Sergio Melta (ex-Adelaide City NSL assistant), Milan Ivanovic (formerly Galaxy), Branko Milosevic (Ex-Olympic FC), Neville Flounders (ex-Adelaide City) and Mario Boffa (ex-MetroStars).

The immediate task for the new officials will be to prepare the State squad for pending friendly games against visiting Japanese clubs.

## SUMMER SERIES

The SASF has given the stamp of approval for the Blue Eagles to conduct a Summer Night Series at their Marden Sports Complex.

SASF competitions manager Rodger King said yesterday that the Blue Eagles aimed to, "Reinvent an Ampol Cup type of atmosphere at their facility with double-header programs each Wednesday and Friday night."

"The tournament will feature the top six teams from last seasons Premier League plus the two promoted State League clubs, Enfield Falcons and Croydon Kings."

When the proposal format was put at the recent Chairman's Meeting, some State League club chiefs expressed disappointment at their exclusion.

"Some clubs were not in agreement, but they can run their own competitions or simple organise pre-winter season trial games," King said.

"One suggestion was that a State League night series be held at Noarlunga and that would be considered if applications were made."

Blue Eagles chairman Rep Giordano said he expected the eight clubs nominated for the series would accept.

"If for what ever reason one or two of the eight clubs fail to accept we will invite Adelaide City's Premier League side and possibly Campbelltown City," Giordano said.

## PRIMARY FOCUS

Just when we thought every conceivable avenue had been explored to spread the soccer gospel throughout our schools the SASF and the North Ingle Primary School have combined to launch the North Ingle Soccer Focus Pathway.

"This is an exciting concept with North Ingle being the first Primary School in the State to embrace this unique program," said chief SA Sports Institute coach Martyn Crook.

The program provides ongoing in-school time coaching by highly qualified and accredited SASF coaches.

There will be regular assessment and reporting on skill development as well as monitored physical development programs using modern techniques and equipment.

Among the range of extra curricula activities may also include visits to NSL games and matches against SASF development squads.

Soccer skills training, physical development, game awareness and character building are all key aspects of the extensive program.

Martyn Crook, as former Soccer and West Adelaide goalkeeper explained that the program is open to talented girls and boys in Years 3-7 who are currently enrolled or willing to enrol at North Ingle Primary School.

Closing date for applications is Thursday, November 21. For further details, the information pack and application forms are

available by contacting North Ingle Primary School, 7 Rothwell Avenue Ingle Farm 5098. Phone 8264 7498 or 8264 2777 or E Mail the Principal at rbennall@nthingleps.sa.edu.au <mailto:rbennall@nthingleps.sa.edu.au>.

## WHAT REST?

The weeks since the end of the 2002 Premier League season have seen Playford Patriots become a hive of activity as preparations get under way for the 2003 season.

Thus reports Patriots communications manager Ian Luker as he relates that the sudden departure of coach Alby Kidd and Mark Brazzale to Galaxy has meant the appointment of Dave Miller as senior coach. With over 20 years experience in the top SA division and 150 plus NSL games Miller is well qualified to lead the club into the next phase of its development.

Joining Miller on the senior Playford coaching panel are Dave (Bud) Hilton a former Para Hills coach who will take the Under 23s.

Well known local identity Robbie Knowles, who played for Elizabeth City in the early 80s, will coach the Under 19s.

The seniors, Under 23s and Under 19s will begin training on November 25.

## SERGI JOINS COREY

Frank Sergi has decided to join his Blue Eagles and SA team colleague Corey Artone at MetroStars next season.

The pair have been recruited by new Metro coach Michael Barnett, who has further strengthened his squad by signing Michael DeLucio from Para Hills, Nick Galanopoulos from Olympic FC and Mark Graham from Galaxy.

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# CHIT CHAT WITH KNIGHTS ACE VINKO BULJUBASIC



By Daniela Raco

The Knights have been written off on many occasions and have bounced back even harder. Having won two national championships back-to-back, the Knights continue to display the same winning focus and determination of a side that is still the envy of many Ericsson Cup coaches.

VINKO BULJUBASIC has seen the Knights perform at their competitive best. He played a key figure in their glorious feats. Vinko is a stylish sweeper who reads the game well. His accomplished defending skills balances out the team, and he has a tremendous capacity to rise to any challenge.

He courageously returned to the game in 2000 after suffering a horrific broken leg playing for Perth Glory in 1999. Fully fit and revving to play I speak to the main man as he attends to daily household chores. At the time of this interview, Vinko was chasing a spider around the house (it made its way to another wall...he lost it...but then he found it again)!!

**PLAYER'S POSITION** – Sweeper.

**NSL CLUBS** – Melbourne Knights: Perth Glory, Football Kings

**DR: How would you describe yourself as a player?**

A good reader of the game.

**DR: From what age have you been playing this great game?**

In the backyard since the age of five. At the age of 14 I joined a junior club called Moreland Meadows Junior Soccer Club in Glenroy. It was at the age of sixteen that I made my NSL debut with the Knights.

**DR: You are a two-time NSL medalist with the Melbourne Knights. Are the Knights Championship contenders this season?**

The squad we have is capable of making the six, but it's a pretty even competition this year compared to other years.

**DR: What is your most memorable soccer moment?**

Winning the first Championship with the Knights away to Adelaide City in the 1994-1995 season. Your first Grand Final win is always your most memorable. The previous year we lost to Adelaide

City in the grand final 1-0 at Olympic Park. This was sweet revenge.

**DR: Can you describe your passion for playing?**

I consider soccer to be one of my top four priorities in life.

1. God.
2. Family (immediate, and wife and son).
3. Country.
4. Soccer.

**DR: Rate your own soccer skills out of 10.**

8/10 – leaving room for improvement. In my position, skill is not required as much as a midfielder or striker.

**DR: You have recently welcomed into the world a baby boy named Tomislav how are the late-night nappy changes going?**

At first very difficult. I'm still coping. My wife takes care of that. I help around when needed.

**DR: One of the hardest things that professional athletes have to cope with is long-term injury. You broke your leg in a league game back in December 1999. Watching the game from the sidelines must have been difficult.**

Very difficult. I was playing with Perth Glory at the time and the team was in top form, and personally I was doing very well. We were unbeaten in the games leading up to my injury. When I look at it now in 2002, it was probably one of the biggest disappointments in my life because it took so long to get back to playing first grade football. But, I always stayed focused and positive that I would get back to playing the best I can regardless of problems on the field. That's just part-and-parcel of the game unfortunately.

**DR: Perth Glory attracts a strong crowd week-in-week-out. Is it disappointing to see crowd number dwindling at other League clubs, including the Knights?**

Yes. Even though crowds have increased this year at the Knights, supporters support a winning team.

If the team is performing well, this will reflect in crowd numbers especially given the passion of Knights supporters who are used to success on the field.

**DR: What makes soccer such a popular sport around the world?**

It's the best game ever invented. It's the people that run it, the players, and supporters that make it what it is.

**DR: Is Australian soccer made up of sport lovers rather than soccer lovers?**

Among the general public it's soccer lovers. If we had more of a mainstream supporter base you'll see more of a crowd at games.

**DR: Does the competition (NSL) have a future in its present form?**

For Australian soccer to become an elite sporting code in this country it needs marketing such as TV rights and major sponsorship. Clubs in Europe survive on these things not only gate takings.

**DR: Is the talent drain harming the local game?**

I think so, but you've got to understand a player's situation. A player's dream is to play for one of the top teams in Europe, so we will always put that ahead of playing for Australia. But I strongly believe a player should establish himself here before heading abroad. Something must be done about keeping players in Australia and playing at an NSL level before they start heading abroad.

**DR: What will it take for Australia to be World Soccer Champions?**

We have to produce more Simunic's, Viduka's, Kewell's, Zelic's, Skoko's and Tiatto's. We have to play more internationals, and make a World Cup!

**DR: What league do you rate as the world's best?**

I admire the English League because of its fast and attacking style. The Italian League for tactical reasons and the German League because they're hard

workers. The Spanish League is along the same lines as Italy and England.

**DR: If you could play for any team in the world, which one would it be?**

The Melbourne Knights Senior Team... (Vinko's laughing!).

**DR: Is there a soccer player that you model your game on?**

I've always liked watching defenders – not only can they defend, but they can play with the ball as well. Great examples of this are Josip Simunic, and Franco Baresi.

**DR: What are the qualities of a good coach?**



Vinko shown in his Perth Glory days.

Communication with players, man-management, and to have a tactical sense of the game.

**DR: In one word describe Player-coach Andrew Marth.**

The man? To-his-word. The coach? Committed.

**DR: Who is the funniest character in the game today?**

My ex-teammate Zoran Markovski.

**DR: What do you do in your "downtime"?**

I'm a family man now. I play with my little boy Tomislav, and spend time with family and friends.

**DR: You are an avid fan of "Bold and Beautiful" – I missed Friday's episode, can you fill me in?**

Normally I'm

glued to the box. But I missed today's episode because I left at 4.30pm to be at training early so Daniel Vasilevski could give me a haircut but he didn't turn up because he was busy working...some excuse!

But, I watched yesterday's. Ridge took over Spectra Fashions to get back at his family, The Forrester's.

**DR: What is the best (or perhaps worst) excuse you've heard someone use for missing training?**

Mine. Normally I say something's come up. I don't beat around the bush. I tell them "It's personal". But I don't do it too often.

**DR: Do you know of any pre-match mishaps (missing players, two left boots, etc)?**

Players who have started the game on the bench and are about to come on, have forgotten their strips and only have their warm-up tops underneath their tracksuit tops.

**DR: Any early predictions for season 2002-2003?**

In no particular order these teams will make the Top 6.

- Olympic Sharks
- Perth Glory
- Newcastle
- South Melbourne
- Adelaide Force
- and of course "Melbourne Knights"

**DR: Who is the last person you would like to be stuck in an elevator with?**

Slobodan Milosevic.

**DR: If you uncorked a genie in a bottle, what would you wish for?**

To play in the first team and have no more injuries.

**DR: If you could travel back in time, where would you go?**

The year 1999 to a League game in Perth – I wish I had moved in another direction when that guy chopped the legs from under me.

**DR: If you could choose any actor to play you in a movie, who would it be?**

Al Pacino, because I love all his movies, especially The Godfather series and Scarface.

**DR: What is your favourite late night snack?**

Prosciutto, cheese, olives, a dash of oil, and sliced Vienna bread.

**DR: Who would you trade places with for a day?**

The President of Croatia, but not just for a day.

**DR: What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?**

That they're unapproachable.

**DR: If you could have any supernatural power, what would it be?**

I'd leave the supernatural to God.

**DR: What animal (or thing) best describes your personality?**



Vinko is known to be a mirror image of the late movie star Brandon Lee.

A Bat, because I don't get enough sleep.

**DR: Best hangover cure?**  
I never drink...heavy!

**DR: Favourite holiday destination?**  
The Croatian Coast.

**DR: Do you have any hidden talents (that you can share with us)?**

Good in bed ...I'm a quiet sleeper!

**DR: What gourmet cuisines can you whip up in the kitchen?**  
Anything you want ...give me a cookbook.

**DR: Worst haircut in the league?**  
Nick Sabljak's mullet.

**DR: Which famous person have you been told you look like?**

Rody Vargas said I looked like Brandon Lee the other day.

**DR: What is the best ingredient for a good night out?**  
Good company.

**DR: Who or what inspires you?**  
My son inspires me to keep playing.

**DR: Do you have any bad habits?**  
I keep forgetting to take the rubbish out.

**DR: Are you the first or last to leave the change rooms after a game?**

Definitely the last. I sit and reflect on the game, take a shower, slowly change, and look in the mirror.

**DR: What is the first thing you do when you arrive home?**

Give my wife and little boy a kiss, and then straight to the fridge.

**DR: If you could have box seats at any event in the world, what would it be?**

A World Cup final between Croatia vs. Yugoslavia.

**DR: How would you spend your last \$50?**

Buy a present for my little boy.



Buljubasic shown at his son's christening with a familiar face on the left, Olympic Sharks star Tommy Pondeljak, who is the proud Godfather.



# NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002/03

**Parramatta Power Youth ... 4**  
**Canberra Deakin ..... 3**

By Graham Cooke

**Parramatta Power** reclaimed top position in the National Youth League with a 4-3 win over Canberra Deakin at Hawker Oval, but it was a result that left Power coach Trevor Morgan fuming.

"Once again, we played badly and got away with it," he said. "It's difficult to get your points across in training when they keep on getting results. 'Today we gifted goals with poor defending against some pretty predictable long diagonal balls from Deakin.' After taking the lead the Canberra side had looked dead and buried at 4-1, but in a spirited comeback grabbed the initiative in the last 15 minutes and could easily have forced a draw.

The scoring began in the 23rd minute when Carl Pideski beat the Power offside trap to run on unchallenged to crack the ball past Daniel Vukovic. Mark Bridge equalised 10 minutes later and on the stroke of half time Predrag Bojic took advantage of a well-weighted free kick to give his side the lead.

The Power tightened their grip on the game when Angelo Martino set up Peter Garaghan for the third, then Martino himself got on the score sheet with a long range shot which goalkeeper Douglas Hynson failed to judge. Deakin hit back when the Power offside trap failed again, Marcial Munoz putting

Michael Spaleta through to score. With 72 minutes gone both goalkeeper Vukovic and defender Joe Vrkic challenged Paul Ivanic's run into the box. Ivanic went down and referee Leslie O'Donoghue awarded the penalty. Spaleta stepped up and smashed his second of the match from the spot, high into the back of the net. That produced a helter-skelter finish to the game - a continuing chapter of misplaced passes, wild clearances and even a foul throw as both sides lost their composure in the search for a decisive goal. In the end Parramatta survived another penalty appeal when Pideski and Vukovic finished up on the ground in the area, and managed to hold on.

Deakin coach Vlado Horvat pointed out that one of Parramatta's over-age players, former Soccerroo Brad Maloney, had a higher monetary value than his entire squad. "This was our toughest opponent so far in the competition and we were competitive," he said. "Maybe we are capable of a top-four place this season - at least it is no longer wild dreams."

**Canberra Deakin:** Hynson, Borg, Harris, Ison, Rezo, Caputo, Munoz, Selby (Caldwell 46), Spaleta, Pideski, Ivanic.  
**Parramatta Power:** Vukovic, Carrera, Vrkic, Bojic, Maloney, Cahill, Kerr (Delzio 56), Martino, Ripepi, Bridge (Cardozo 61), Gavaghan (Butt 82).  
**Referee:** Leslie O'Donoghue.  
**Crowd:** 442.

## NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS - ROUND 9

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2002

ACTAS 2 AIS 1  
(Hayes 55', Barisic 63') (Nedeljkovic 56')

Newcastle United Youth 6 Marconi Stallions Youth 0  
(Moreira 7', 27', 35', Davelaar 33', Mitchell 36', Wallace 42')

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2002

Northern Spirit Youth 0 Olympic Sharks Youth 0

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2002  
 Canberra Deakin 3 Parramatta Power Youth 4  
(Pideski 23', Spaleta 59' 72' pen) (Bridge 32', Bojic 46', Gavaghan 51', Martino 57')

Marconi Mustangs 0 Wollongong Wolves Youth 2  
(Martin 6', Majurovski 27')

BYE - Sydney United Youth  
 BYE - QAS

### NORTHERN DIVISION - ROUND 9

TEAM	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	7	5	2	2	0	22	8	17
Wollongong Wolves Youth	8	5	1	0	2	20	11	16
Canberra Deakin	9	4	2	1	3	25	13	14
Sydney United Youth	6	4	0	2	2	15	10	12
AIS	7	3	3	2	1	10	5	12
Northern Spirit Youth	8	3	2	1	3	6	5	11
Olympic Sharks Youth	9	2	4	0	3	8	12	10
Newcastle United Youth	7	2	3	1	2	10	8	9
ACTAS	5	2	1	2	2	8	9	7
Marconi Stallions Youth	7	2	1	2	4	8	17	7
QAS	6	1	0	2	5	9	24	3
Marconi Mustangs	7	0	1	1	7	2	21	1

## FIXTURES - ROUND 10

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2002

QAS v Canberra Deakin

AIS v Sydney United Youth

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2002

Olympic Sharks Youth v Marconi Mustangs

Parramatta Power Youth v Newcastle United Youth

Marconi Stallions Youth v ACTAS

BYE - Northern Spirit Youth

BYE - Wollongong Wolves Youth

## NYL Wrap

The Newcastle United Youth squad recorded the biggest victory in the Northern National Youth League last week by demolishing the Marconi Stallions Youth side six-nil.

A hat-trick by Brazilian first grader Alex Moreira and a goal each from Lee Davelaar, Josh Mitchell and Mitchell Wallace gifted United its second victory of the season while the Stallions lose sent them tumbling down the NYL ladder.

In other NYL matches, the AIS recorded its first loss of the season at the hands of the ACTAS two-one.

In a fierce derby between both Canberra sides it was the ACTAS that took the lead through Steven Hayes however the AIS quickly responded with a goal to local Canberra product Mark Nedeljkovic.

It wasn't to be for Steve O'Connor's men as poor finishing let the side down with strikers Anthony Jankovski and Frankie Lagana going close on numerous occasions.

The AIS dominated the majority of the match with possession more or less one-sided however the ACTAS took their chances and stole the three points.

Andrew Barisic was the hero for the Academy adding in the clincher in the 63rd minute to end the game's proceedings.

The Northern Spirit Youth and the Olympic Sharks Youth played out a scoreless draw at Christie Park last Saturday afternoon.

A point separates both sides who sit in the middle of the pack but signs are evident that both squads have been improving.

Finally the Wollongong Wolves Youth side recorded a two-nil win over the young Marconi Mustangs pushing the side to second position.

Goals from John Majurovski and new recruit Tallan Martin gave the vital three points to Eddie Tessoro's side.

## WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

### Chatting with Wolves Skipper

Club captain Stuart Young was still a bit shaken by the week-day mauling received from South American Penarol, reports the mood among the boys is still positive.



superior class.

Overall the Wolves squad is injury free with the exception of 16 year old talent Jacob Timpano, still recovering from an ankle injury.

The Wolves have the BYE this week before facing the Olympic Sharks, a tough draw with the next game on Sunday 8th December at home against Adelaide City Force.

Illawarra soccer lovers need to realise the chance to keep national football in Wollongong

requires support from all fans. Please put your ethnic preferences aside for once, come along in numbers to keep the NSL club in town for your kids football future.

Many years ago the now defunct south Coast United drew 9000 to Woonona, over 30,000 to

the Sydney Football Stadium - come out of your shell and cheer the boys on.

### Fantastic Football Exhibition South American Style -

Soccer fans watched in amazement last week's friendly match against PENAROL - at least those considered as supporters with others missing out to a brilliant show of skill.

The Wolves did not play that bad even though they lost 6-1 - the visitors from South America just were the best footballing team to grace the pitch of WIN Stadium. One could compare PENAROL with the Harlem Globetrotters, observing experts in ball passing and skills at work.

The match deserved a 15 to 20,000 attendance, a brilliant demonstration of football at it's best.

Sadly the football public in Illawarra did not appreciate quality players coming from a different culture - the School of South America football expertise.

Hopefully the Wolves players learned a lesson for their betterment, being shown their limitations in ball control, it can only be of benefit for the coming competition games.

Perhaps coach Ron Corry was a bit too harsh blasting his boys, this time they were outclassed, simple as that.



## RANN STEPS UP WORLD CUP BID

**S**OUTH Australian Mike Rann will promote Australia's bid to host the 2014 Soccer World Cup at a meeting with senior FIFA officials in Switzerland.

Mr Rann said he was meeting with officials from the sport's world governing body in Zurich. "The next World Cup in 2006 will be held in Germany, 2010 will be held in Africa, 2014 is the first opportunity for Australia, although we will face strong competition from South America," Mr Rann said in a statement.

"The planning for Australia's bid has already begun. If successful,

games will be held in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and the other cities. This is a national bid.



**Mike Rann: South Australian Premier will do his bit in promoting Australia's bid to host the 2014 World Cup.**

He said the World Cup was bigger economically than the Olympic Games and would provide Australia with a massive economic boost.

## KANGA CUP AWAKES THE RED DRAGON

By Graham Cooke

**C**hina's enthusiasm for the Kanga Cup international youth tournament is frightening, Soccer Canberra chief executive Alan Lee says.

Just back from a visit to that country and Singapore to promote the competition, Lee said he and Kanga Cup manager Mark Louis had received an assurance from the China Football Association that it would be advertised in every school and club in China.

"I'm not sure how we will manage if even a tiny fraction of them say they want to enter," he said.

One of their strongest backers had been former CFA general secretary Wang Jun-Sheng, who is now chairman of the board of China Sports Industry Ltd.

"This is a government-funded organisation that buys property and invests the

interest received in sport," he said. "It is difficult to comprehend the scale of their activities."

In Beijing he and Louis had made presentations to clubs and elite soccer schools where the best young players are sent both to study and train. A similar program was followed in Shanghai.

"Both cities want us to set up a continuing relationship whereby we exchange teams and come to each other's tournaments," he said. "And the CFA were interested in our suggestion that their senior teams use Canberra as an off-season training base and play matches here."

Shanghai had extended an invitation for Canberra to join an international youth tournament currently involving Shanghai, Osaka (Japan) and the South Korean capital of Seoul.

In Singapore there had also been discussions and a tour of local facilities, and Lee said he was also hopeful of some entries from the city-state.

## PREMIERSHIP BIZZARIO

**N**ige and Fergy here from Banana TV's Premiership Bizarrio. Every week we're going to give you our views and opinions on what's going on, and off, in the English Premiership.

"Iraq Aid" had been eliminated until last week. The Iraqi FA advertised for a National Team Manager and the aid comes in the form of ex East German and Perth Glory coach, Bernd Stange. Stange, who got the job when his former employer, Oman, defeated the much fancied Iraq 1-0. The position came available after the previous coach mysteriously disappeared after the defeat.

On arrival at Baghdad airport, Stange posed for a phot shoot alongside a massive picture of the Sporty Saddam. Interestingly Uday Hussein, madman son of the dictator is the Head of the Iraqi FA. In 1997 after a crucial World Cup qualifier defeat, Uday had the team publicly flogged. Saddam has agreed to Stange being open to the UN for weapons inspections.

Bozo Bosnich, the Aussie Night Club urchin, has always been able to find his way to the back page of the tabloids, for all the wrong reasons. This time he stands to make a first in the history of English Football. He can admit to his penchant for Bolivian Nasal Dust or have to submit a B sample, whatever he does, he's in for a 2 year ban, which is about the length of time he last played a first team

game.

M. Al Fayed is definitely a team player. When talking to ex player Paul Peschisolido about the state of his groin strain, Al Fayed, extremely concerned about Peschisolido's performance in the sack, offered him a test tube of his sperm in case he needed to impregnate his wife, Karen Bromide, CEO of Birmingham City. Peschisolido has yet to get back to Moham with an answer.

H.A. Rods' owner will do anything to get a passport.

The biggest legal battle of the year doesn't belong to Leicester or Dennis Wise or Royston Keano or The FA. This title could go to Peterborough United, who are currently wrangling over their nickname, "The Posh".

Queen Victoria Beckham has taken exception to the 90 year old club's name, as it might cause confusion between her marketing machine and the 3rd Division club. Seems that one or the other will have to change their name to "Talent Vacuum". Our money is on Mrs Beckham.

See you next week.

Nige and Fergy

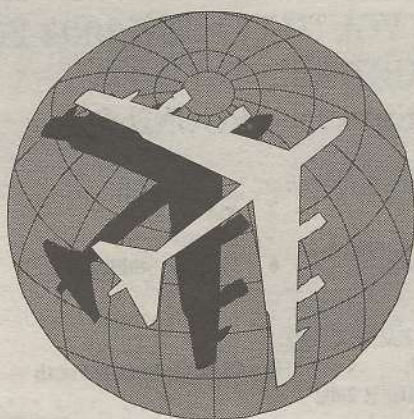
To catch Nige and Fergy on Premiership Bizarrio, their internet TV show, go to [www.bananatv.com](http://www.bananatv.com)

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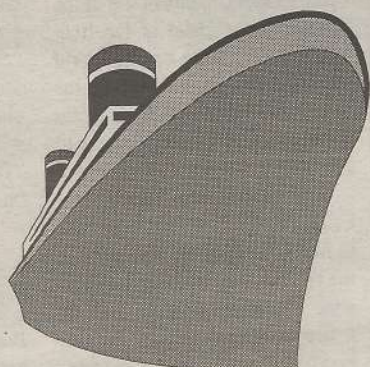
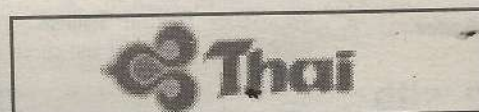
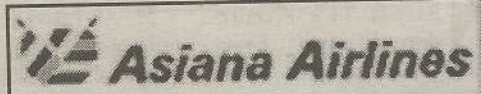
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# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

## After Round 9

	TOTAL							PTS	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	Bye	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
OLYMPIC SHARKS	9	6	2	1	0	19	12	20	4	4	0	0	7	0	5	2	2	1	12	12
PERTH GLORY	8	6	0	2	1	15	8	18	4	3	0	1	9	5	4	3	0	1	6	3
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	8	4	2	2	1	16	11	14	4	2	2	0	9	4	4	2	0	2	7	7
NEWCASTLE UNITED	9	4	1	4	0	11	7	13	5	4	1	0	11	1	4	0	0	4	0	6
SYDNEY UNITED	8	3	3	2	1	8	7	12	4	3	1	0	7	3	4	0	2	2	1	4
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	8	2	5	1	1	14	13	11	4	2	2	0	7	4	4	0	3	1	7	9
SOUTH MELBOURNE	8	3	2	3	1	15	16	11	4	3	1	0	13	7	4	0	1	3	2	9
FOOTBALL KINGZ	9	2	4	3	0	12	11	10	5	1	3	1	6	6	4	1	1	2	6	5
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	9	2	4	3	0	9	11	10	4	1	3	0	2	1	5	1	1	3	7	10
PARRAMATTA POWER	8	2	3	3	1	10	10	9	4	1	1	2	5	6	4	1	2	1	5	4
MARCONI STALLIONS	8	2	2	4	1	9	12	8	4	1	1	2	5	7	4	1	1	2	4	5
NORTHERN SPIRIT	8	2	1	5	1	11	21	7	4	1	0	3	7	12	4	1	1	2	4	9
BRISBANE STRIKERS	8	1	1	6	1	12	22	4	4	0	0	4	5	12	4	1	1	2	7	10

### FOOTBALL KINGZ

(B Renaud og 62', P Urlovic 81')

### PARRAMATTA POWER

(K Salapaidis 4')

**Referee:** Derek Rugg. **Crowd:** 2,908. **Venue:** Ericsson Stadium.

**Cautions:** P Almendra (FK) 84', A Vlahos (FK) 87'.

**Teams:** Football Kingz: Utting, Taylor, Atkinson (Beldham 62'), Perry, Burton, Almendra, Campbell (Urlovic 62'), Vlahos, Ngata (Turner 81'), deGregorio, Miyazawa.

**Subs Not Used:** Bannatyne (gk).

**Parramatta Power:** Reddy, Ceccoli, Beauchamp, Thompson (Zorbas 66'), O'Sullivan, Brownlie (Buonavoglia 66'), Salapaidis, Langdon, Sobczyk, Renaud, Elrich.

**Subs Not Used:** Orlic, Vukovic (gk).

### NEWCASTLE UNITED

### MARCONI STALLIONS

**Referee:** Con Diomis. **Crowd:** 6,132. **Venue:** Energy Australia Stadium. **Cautions:** J Griffiths (NU) 78', C Gibson (MS) 27', G Last (MS) 33', J Spiteri (MS) 69', A Brosque (MS) 75', D Longo (MS) 84'.

**Teams:** Newcastle United: Beltrame, Roberts (Dodd 46'), Thomas (Masi 57'), Bingley, J Griffiths, Tsekenis, Baillie, Blagojevic, R Griffiths (Hughes 75'), Middleby, Eagleton.

**Subs Not Used:** Willis (gk).

**Marconi Stallions:** Turnbull, Gibson, Webb, Longo, Perinich, McDonald, Enes (Cotte 53'), Spiteri (Thwaite 90'), Brosque (Anabalon 81'), Last, Sekulic.

**Subs Not Used:** Alogdellis (gk).

### NORTHERN SPIRIT

(V Tomasevic 77', 92')

### OLYMPIC SHARKS

(J Watts og 2', J Porter 17', T Pondeljak 68')

**Referee:** Matthew Breeze. **Crowd:** 2,795. **Venue:** North Sydney Oval. **Cautions:** J Richer (NS) 71', J Watts (NS) 85'.

**Teams:** Northern Spirit: Henderson, Watts, Tobin, McDermott, Kwasnik, Hutchinson (Baveas 82'), Tomasevic, Wilkinson, Phillips (Osman 71'), Burgess (Cartwright 74'), Richter.

**Subs Not Used:** Acevski (gk).

**Olympic Sharks:** Bolton, Kohler (Durante 46'), Juric, Srhoj (Owens 59'), Pondeljak, Milicic, North, Parisi (Harris 66'), Porter, Packer, Ishida.

**Subs Not Used:** Hughes (gk).

### SOUTH MELBOURNE

(P Trimboli 1', P Buljan 31', B Damianos 61', N Tolios 67')

### MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

(L Buhic 30', A Pelikan 43')

**Referee:** Brett Hugo. **Crowd:** 10,200 approx. **Venue:** Bob Jane Stadium. **Cautions:** P Buljan (SM) 5', V Coveny (SM) 47', N Sabljak (MK) 36', R Vargas (MK) 68'.

**Red Cards:** P Buljan (SM) 43', N Sabljak (MK) 45'. **Teams:** South Melbourne: Galekovic, Durakovic, Clarkson (Coveny 46') (Sekulovski 68'), Panopoulos, Trimboli (Iosifidis 67'), Buljan, Lia, Tolios, Murdochca, Kisnorbo, Damianos.

**Subs Not Used:** Anastasiadis (gk).

**Melbourne Knights:** John, Plorkowski, Vargas, Marth (Fa'arodo 46'), Vasilevski (Sulemani 73'), Buhic (Cervinski 61'), Sabljak, Erdogan, Jolic, Pelikan, Lapsansky.

**Subs Not Used:** Hrehoresin (gk).

### SYDNEY UNITED

(J Angelucci 46', 87')

### ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

(A Vidmar 84')

**Referee:** Mark Shield. **Crowd:** 3,969. **Venue:** Sydney United Sports Centre. **Cautions:** V Ivesa (SU) 84', I Fyfe (ACF) 25', A Pellegrino (ACF) 80'.

**Teams:** Sydney United: Ivesa, Cacic, Bilokapic, Barrett, Arrarte (Jedinak 65'), Mendez (Doumanis 72'), Collina, Brain, Angelucci (Watkins 88'), B Santalab, Deur.

**Subs Not Used:** Perosh (gk).

**Adelaide City Force:** Godley (Martin 72'), Fyfe, Kovacevic, Valkanis, Pellegrini (Terminello 80'), Pantelis, Veart, Smeltz (Pellegrino 65'), Vidmar, Tunbridge, Pelosi.

**Subs Not Used:** Karlovic.

### PERTH GLORY

(B Hassell 14', 43', N Mrdja 23')

### WOLLONGONG WOLVES

(S Young 37' pen)

**Referee:** Peter Green. **Crowd:** 12,801. **Venue:** Perth Oval. **Cautions:** Nil.

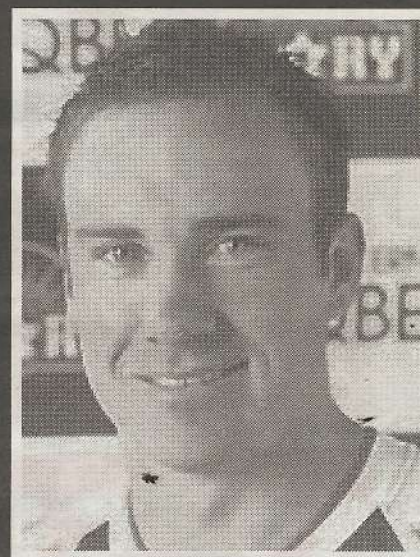
**Teams:** Perth Glory: Petkovic, Hassell, Gumprecht, Miller, Mrdja (Despotovski 90'), Mouhouti, Junior, Mori, Faria (Garcia 87'), Pryce, Tarka.

**Subs Not Used:** Coyne, Franken (gk).

**Wollongong Wolves:** Crews, Austin, Stanton (Aliffi 20'), Cervinski, Lyons, Babic (Wells 61'), Young, Sekulovski, Farah (Castro 74'), Huxley, Mennillo.

**Subs Not Used:** Whalen (gk).

## PLAYER OF THE WEEK



### BRAD HASSELL

(Perth Glory)

It was a monumental day for Glory star Brad Hassell during last week's clash against the Wollongong Wolves.

Not only did the former Adelaide City star bag a brace to gift his side the victory, but his two goals put him on the National League's list of players who have notched up the 50-goal mark in their careers.

The 28-year-old has also been in fine striking form taking his tally to four for the season proving that the Glory have more than their famous two strikers.

## LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	7
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	6
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle United	5
NGATA Heremaia	Football Kingz	5
PELIKAN Anthony	Melbourne Knights	5
YOUNG Stuart	Wollongong Wolves	5
ALMENDRA Patricio	Football Kingz	4
PACKER Andrew	Olympic Sharks	4
SPITERI Joe	Marconi Stallions	4

## BYE - BRISBANE STRIKERS

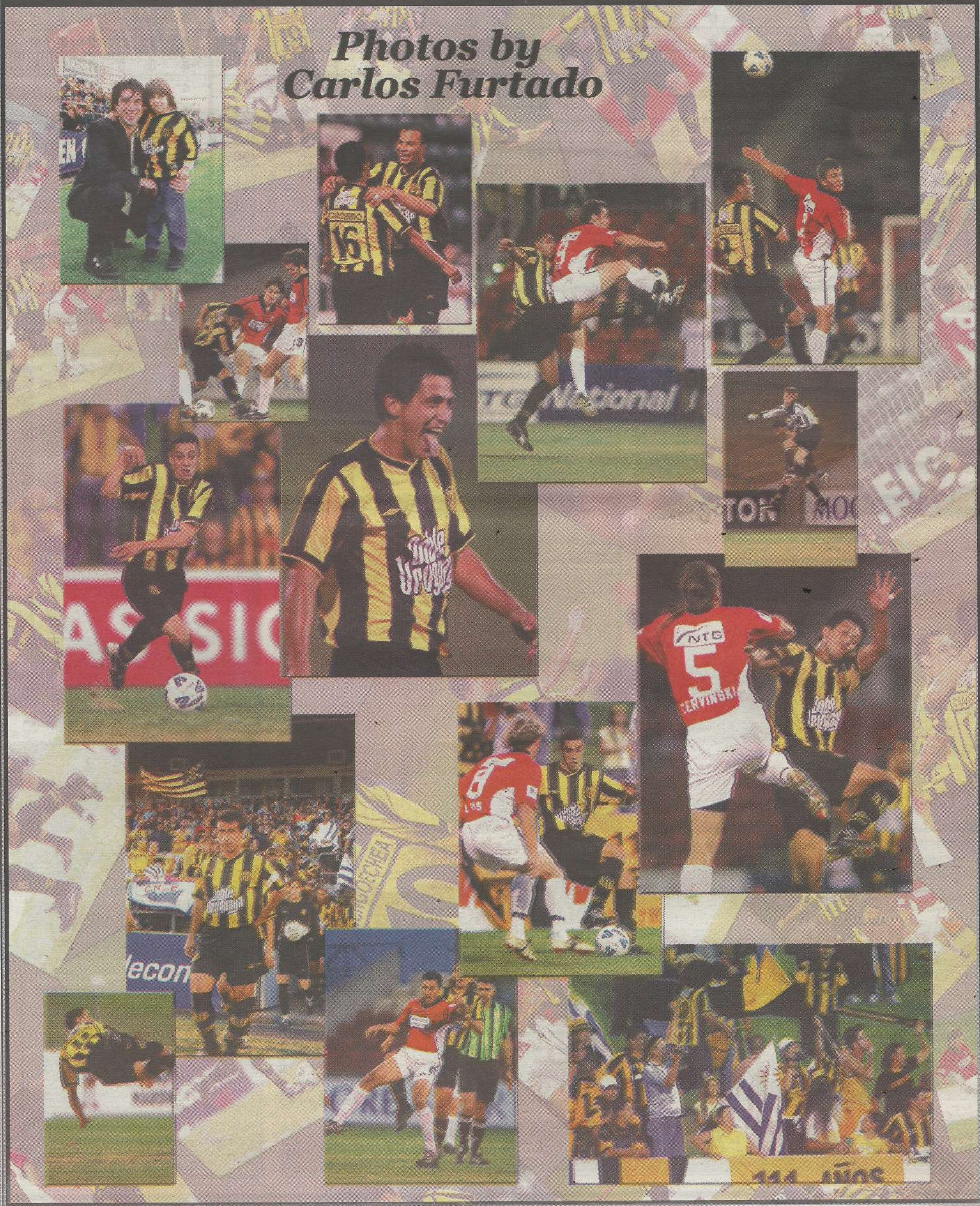




# Peñarol Australian Tour 2002



Photos by  
Carlos Furtado







# *Peñarol Australian Tour 2002*

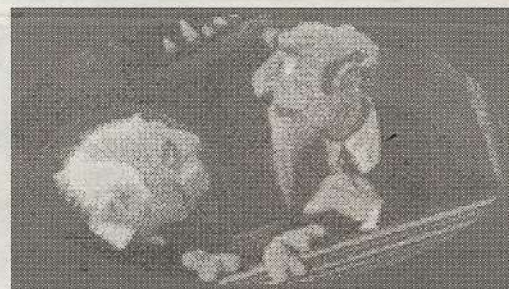


**Photos by  
Carlos Furtado**





# From The Dressing Sheds



By Mark Stavroulakis

-Aussie soccer followers beware of an up and coming television commercial that will involve a few players and a particular coach from the National League. Parramatta Power players went through the motions last week in

a plight to enter a new career path - television stars. The whole team went through a casting process whereby on a handful were selected but it was reported that one man stole the show. Power Assistant-Coach Manfred Schaefer was pinpointed by the casting agency as

the man they were after with one official stating, "He is exactly what we are after". Stay tuned to a cinema near year, the one the only, Manfred!

-Sydney United is a club sporting many players hailing from different countries this season.

A few players actually room together in Sydney's west with a REAL international flavour to it.

English born youngster Louis Brain, Solomon Islander Commis Menapi and Slovakian import Slavomir Lukac all live in the same house.

According to United's media man Aytek Genc the trio discuss many political and social issues in their own country.

To add more to the story their next-door neighbours are the Croatian trio of Boris Pavic, Bozidar Cacic and the new 'Spider' Vanja Ivesa.

Now that's multiculturalism blending in at its best!

-Yet another chapter in the Mark Bosnich saga was written last week when the former Socceroo tested positive for the Class A drug cocaine.

Waiting to see what will be the final outcome in a final test, if it is positive, the man earning up to forty thousand pounds a week could be shown the door - by Chelsea.

Australian manager Leo Karis and former Socceroo Graham Arnold flew to England last week in a bid to reassess 'Bozza's future plans.

It's been stated in the English press that Bosnich is suffering from depression and has been admitted to a depression unit of a medical facility for treatment.

Hopefully the talented custodian will over-ride this recent incident and get on with playing football.

-Just one indication on how hard it must be to try and crack into the Glory's first team squad talented defender Ben Blake has yet to play a full National League game for the club.

With his short-term

contract up in under a month, Blake's position has been taken over by promising youngster and a candidate for Young Socceroo skipper David Tarka.

The former AIS graduate has been one of the best youngsters of the season displaying maturity beyond his 19-years.

-Yet to don the blue and white jersey of South Melbourne this season, midfield ace Zeljko Susa had come under the spotlight last week claiming Croatian club Hadjuk Split's comments of him breaching the contact "were a load of s\*\*te"

Having been unable to claim an international clearance from Split, Susa has had the tough task of watching his teammates play nine matches on the sideline.

-It was quite interesting to see an incident that happened during the Sharks-Sydney United clash that grabbed the attention of a few onlookers in the stand.

After the match ended, United's Damon Collina apparently kicked the case full of water which the Sharks gear steward was carrying at the time, spilling it all on the hapless 'water boy'.

Collina, an ex-Sharks player must have returned the favour for all the times he missed out on a drink during his time at the club.

-From the dressing Sheds' reporters have kept a close eye in the past few weeks on Eddie Krncevic and Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

The pair have been spotted at Olympic's last two home matches in a corporate box discussing views and issues over a bottle of wine and some beer.

We wonder what this is leading to?

-Listed below is a top ten chart displaying the National League's most capped players.

In the list of 10, four are still active in the league and hope to improve their appearances this season by climbing up the milestone ladder.

1. Alex Tobin\* ... 491

2. Sergio Melta ... 445
3. Paul Trimboli\* ... 426
4. Mike O'Shea ... 406
5. Robert Hooker ... 394
6. Theo Selemidis ... 393
7. Gary Phillips ... 377
- =8. David Barrett\* ... 372
- =8. John Markovski ... 372
10. Andrew Marth\* ... 370

\*denotes currently playing in NSL

-Perth Glory's star striker Damian Mori lashed out at the PFA last week after he scoffed at their suggestion of a 12-month lay-off of the National League.

"The PFA is not speaking for all players when it says it is willing to accept 12 months without a National League rather than rush into a new format next season. I am not a member of the union but I know I am not alone in my opposition to any proposal that would sideline NSL players for a season", Mori stated in his weekly column for the West Australian last week.

PFA Chief Brendon Schwab certainly has his work cut out in uniting players on this issue but indications are clear that the majority of the National League players will not be carrying a smile on their faces if this does eventuate.

-Just who will be the Socceroos next skipper?

That is the question currently haunting coach Frank Farina who has quite a number of candidates for Australia's number one job on the pitch.

Harry Kewell, Mark Schwarzer, Brett Emerton, Craig Moore and one of the front runners for the job Josip Skoko all look set to take over Paul Okon's armband in the new-year.

-Following Glory custodian Vince Matassa's bizarre injury that left him second best with a bookshelf after braking a bone in his hand comes another injury that caught everyone at ABSW by surprise.

Wolves promising youngster Jacob Timpano has been out injured for quite some time now due to an ankle injury.

The 16-year-old star apparently tripped over

his mother's shoes at home rolling his ankle in the process, thus sidelining young Timpano for the past month.

Wolves officials have stated that Timpano will be raring to go in the next few weeks but a strong message to young Jacob would be to beware of his mothers shoes!

-The Wollongong Wolves U19 squad will next April embark on a huge journey taking part in a World Youth

-What a great statistic it was to see last week in the derby match between South Melbourne and the Melbourne Knights that attracted a ten-thousand plus crowd at Bob Jane Stadium - Let's hope this is a sign for better things to come from the National League crowds.

-Four goals in four successive matches has seen Melbourne Knights youngster Anthony Pelikan in fine goal scoring form for his club.

## BAD BOYS OF THE WEEK



Nick Sabljak



Peter Buljan

(Nick Sabljak & Peter Buljan)

As always, a derby was certainly in the air of Melbourne last Sunday afternoon after six goals, two penalties and a great crowd were on hand to witness a great match with South Melbourne proving victors over old foes the Melbourne Knights.

During the heated battle between the pair, tensions broke out before the conclusion of the first half as both Peter Buljan and Nick Sabljak were sent from the field due to two cautions.

Both side's were reduced to ten-men, however it proved more costly for South coach Danny Wright as he's seen two strikers in the past two weeks ordered from the field, thus hindering his attacking choices for this week's clash against the Stallions.

## Round 11 Fixtures

FRIDAY 29/11

Newcastle United v Brisbane Strikers  
Northern Spirit v Melbourne Knights

SUNDAY 1/12

Perth Glory v Adelaide City Force  
South Melbourne v Parramatta Power  
Sydney United v Marconi Stallions  
Olympic Sharks v Wollongong Wolves

## Round 10 Fixtures

SATURDAY 23/11

Brisbane Strikers v Football Kingz  
Olympic Sharks v Perth Glory

SUNDAY 24/11

South Melbourne v Marconi Stallions  
Adelaide City Force v Northern Spirit  
Parramatta Power v Newcastle United  
Melbourne Knights v Sydney United

Bye - Wollongong Wolves

Tournament representing Australia in Southern France.

Led by coach Eddie Tesoro, the Wolves have entered the 'FC St Josephs Tournament', which will boost teams such as PSG, Nantes, Lille, AC Milan, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, and the list goes on of high quality opposition.

More information on the young Wolves trip to France will be explained in forthcoming ABSW editions.

-Speaking of World Youth Tournaments, Sydney is set to host one of the most prestigious competitions next February called the 'Gradisca Tournament'.

Held once a year in Trieste, Italy, this tournament will be used as qualifiers for the big one held in Italy during mid-April early May.

Select clubs from Asia and Oceania will battle it out for a spot in the famous tournament, which will be played at both Parklea and Marconi Stadium.

Tournament organisers Frank Dapuzzo and Lorenzo Pastrello are expecting a brilliant U18 tournament which will include many of Australia's future stars.

The 20-year-old has caught the eye of many on-lookers on and off the pitch as the attacking midfielder has stated his wish to one day grace the pitches of an overseas club.

-In pre-January transfer news, the Marconi Stallions are reported to be chasing Penarol defender Nano.

The ex-Marseille defender will add more experience to the Stallions back-line and is set to join the Fairfield-based club at the end of Penarol's Australian tour.

The 29-year-old, who's full name is Ruben Fernando Dos Santos will no doubt attract the many South American fans living in the Fairfield area.

-It was good to see South Melbourne's rising young star Michael Baird on 'The World Game Show' last week mention ABSW as his source for reading the selection of the U20 squad.

The current Young Socceroo was unfortunately given a two-match suspension that sees the former Brisbane Strikers player miss out this week's match against the Stallions.



# NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

www.soccernsw.com.au



## NSW PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2002/2003



NSW Premier League

## Celebrity Tipsters By Greg Stock



NSW Premier League

**R**ound One is only a matter of days away and all the preseason hype will shortly give way to the on field action.

To get the final lowdown on the winners and the also-rans, we asked five well known soccer personalities to give us their predictions for the year ahead.

Under the spotlight are former Super League Coach of the Year John Turner (now coaching Sutherland in the Winter Super League), APIA-Leichhardt midfielder Sam Larocca, award winning soccer journalist (and all-round nice guy) Paul Goodwin, last seasons Golden Boot winner (direct from the Bay Area in California, USA) Jimmy Aschner and new Parramatta Eagles boss John Callega.

### Who will be the two Grand-Finalists for season 2002/3?

**John Turner** – "It looks to be a race in two with APIA-Leichhardt and Bankstown City."

**Sam Larocca** – "I have to say APIA for starters and Bankstown given the way that they have recruited a number of former NSL players."

**Paul Goodwin** – "Bankstown City and APIA. Lee Sterrey will prove his credentials again and APIA will at last justify their ambitious spending."

**Jimmy Aschner** – "I have to say my old club Bonnyrigg and given the way Bankstown have recruited they could well be the team to beat."

**John Callega** – "Parramatta of course, but if I was forced to pick an opponent I'd probably say Bankstown."

### The side to win the Wooden Spoon?

**John Turner** – "I don't like picking these, but if I were forced to name a couple of contenders I'd say St George and the Central Coast as the two sides that really haven't spent a lot of money."

**Sam Larocca** – "It could be the Coasties turn this year."

**Paul Goodwin** – "The Central Coast. Sadly someone has to come last."

**Jimmy Aschner** – "There could be a couple of contenders with the Coasties and St George possibilities."

**John Callega** – "Anyone but Parramatta and I'll be happy!"

### The player to win the Gold Medal?

**John Turner** – "Michael Hawrysiuk is the second best player I have ever coached and he will go close, or Dion Valle at Blacktown."

**Sam Larocca** – "Michael Hawrysiuk. He is such a tough opponent."

**Paul Goodwin** – "Norman Tome, back in the fold and ready to shine once more."

**Jimmy Aschner** – "My old team mates Michael Hawrysiuk or Devrim Huseyin."

**John Callega** – "Mauricio Islas or Malcolm Meilak. Both players have been training the house down for us."

### The player to win the Golden Boot?

**John Turner** – "Its going to be a big year for goalscorers but Zlatko Arambasic might just get there with that touch of class."

**Sam Larocca** – "If it's not going to be Zlatko Arambasic or Steve Karavatakis, then I'll go with Norman Tome."



"Who will lift the trophy at the end of the season?"

**Paul Goodwin** – "Colin Luff, with all those quality players around him he is a moral!"

**Jimmy Aschner** – "Whoever out of Colin Luff or Zlatko Arambasic stays fit will win it."

**John Callega** – "For us Anthony Mondello and Daniel Kukucka, or Marc Hoenselaars for the Bulls."

### The goalkeeper of the year winner?

**John Turner** – "Brad Swancott is a very special player."

**Sam Larocca** – "Con Anastasiadis, he is a quality player being at one of the weaker clubs he is sure to get plenty of work."

**Paul Goodwin** – "John Crawley is still a class act."

**Jimmy Aschner** – "Don't write off Fernando Greco just yet or John Crawley at Blacktown."

**John Callega** – "Jason Holmes won it last year and in his form he could well win it again."

### Coach of the Year?

**John Turner** – "There are plenty of great coaches this year but with his NSL experience Lee Sterrey."

**Sam Larocca** – "We will win the premiership this year so Les De Celis!"

**Paul Goodwin** – "Lee Sterrey the man with the midas touch."

**Jimmy Aschner** – "Greg Woodhouse at Canterbury or Ljube Jancev at Bonnyrigg."

**John Callega** – "Every coach is always tough but either Lee Sterrey or Brian Brown."

## NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

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# NSW Premier League



## PARRAMATTA EAGLES VS FIJI at Sydney United Sports Centre

**Parramatta Eagles . . . . 1**  
**Fiji . . . . . 1**  
at the Sydney Croatian Sports Centre

By Greg Stock

**P**arramatta Eagles wrapped up their pre-season campaign with a lucky one all draw against the Fijian National side on Sunday afternoon.

The match played as a curtain raiser to the Sydney United v Adelaide City NSL game was a lackluster affair for the Eagles, who still look to be well short of the form that won them the title

last season.

Starting the match off at a cracking pace the Fijians could have been three or four up after twenty minutes but some inconsistent shooting cost them dearly.

They did score one on the half-hour when they broke down the left hand side, before Geoff Dwyer cleared one off the line after a goalmouth scramble just sixty seconds later.

With their superior fitness and size, the Fijians dominated the first half and if it wasn't for the efforts of goalkeeper Jason Holmes the scoreboard could have been much worse than 1-0 at the break.

In the second stanza Parramatta was much



Former Australian National Youth Coach, Les Scheinflug directs the Fijians.

more composed and used the ball much more effectively than they did in the first half.

With the hot conditions taking their toll, the game opened right up, but it wasn't until a defensive error by the Fijian goalkeeper three minutes from time, that gave the home side an equaliser. Substitute Geoff Howarth was all but gifted a goal from a miskicked clearance to give his side an even share of a match they really should have lost.

While the Fijians did wilt in the second half as their heavy schedule caught up with them, coach John Callega was somewhat bemused with his side efforts.

"Our first half was a little sloppy, but we tidied ourselves up a little at half-time and I felt we did

enough in the second half" said Callega. "Sure we didn't play to our potential but there were some positives like the form of Tim Gledhill and Michael Kladis which is encouraging."

Having lost all but one of their nine preseason matches, the Eagles will need to lift sharply if they are to trouble Bankstown City next Saturday.

"There are no complaints about our preseason," said Callega. "Bankstown are a class side and we'll need to take it up a gear or two if we are to compete."

Amongst the Eagles best were Michael Kladis, Mark Reveley and Geoff Dwyer while Daniel Borg did some nice things in midfield.



The Fijians currently in camp at Sydney United Sports Centre.

## FROM THE SIDELINES By Greg Stock

\*Central Coast have completed their first grade roster for the season with the addition of former Adelaide City striker James Monie. Partnering Peter Preston during the trial games, both players have been in tremendous form with one keen pundit predicting they could form a partnership to rival the Bulls Marc Hoenselaars and Mathew Borg.

\*Trial game results this week. A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt picked up a 1-0 result in their midweek assignment with Indoensia at Valentine Park. Zlatko Arambasic scored the winner in a game which was saw much end to end action. Andrew Clark was arguably A.P.I.A.'s best, turning in a solid performance as well as providing Arambasic with the cross that led to the goal. The previous weekend Rockdale held A.P.I.A. to a 2-2 draw at Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre.

Blacktown City played a 2-2 draw with western neighbours Penrith. Chad Lewis and Danny Hinton scored goals for the mountain men while Blacktown picked up their two from Luke Roodenberg and Jimmy Nikas. Blacktown started 16 year old Glen Littlebury at right back and introduced 17-year old Paul Karbon at stopper in the last half hour. Paul Yates played 70 minutes, and was replaced by Damien Foxe for the last 20 minutes. It was 'Foxey's' first serious game time since his off season knee reconstruction and he pulled up well after the match.

The Coasties completed their preseason matches with a 1-1 draw with A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt on Saturday night at Pluim Park. Played on a dusty number 2 pitch the match was a fast, torrid affair with no quarter given. Sam Larocca scored for the visitors in the 10th minute capitalizing on a defensive blunder before James Monie scored the equaliser

for the Coasties on the half-hour with a nice strike from a tough angle.

Interestingly A.P.I.A. coach Les De Celis only used eleven players preferring not to use any substitutes throughout the ninety minutes. Central Coast boss John McLafferty rested striker Peter Preston and was full of praise for his side that celebrated Daniel Surridge's 21st birthday the night before. The Under 19s match went to A.P.I.A. 5-1.

Fairfield came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2



with Bonnyrigg on Saturday evening at the Serbian Centre. The Bulls comeback was largely orchestrated by a couple of trialists in Luke Tomich and Eddie Giraldo.

\*Speaking of Bonnyrigg, they have secured the

services of former Nigerian youth international, Kindess Agwu from Fraser Park. After completing their preseason with a 2-2 draw against Fairfield the White Eagles go into the season opener against Belconnen unbeaten after beating Penrith 3-1, Parramatta Eagles 3-0 and Blacktown City 2-1.

\*A hearty congratulations to St George midfielder Archie Markopoulos and his wife Elizabeth on the birth of their first child. Little Peter came into

the world on Wednesday the 13th of November and mum and baby are doing fine, dad we are not so sure about! Our spies tell us little Peter is already kicking hard off both feet, just like his very proud dad.

\*The Saints have also signed former Rockdale

and A.P.I.A. striker Zoki Adioski.

\*Rockdale City Suns new striker Trent Worrall has suffered an unfortunate injury at training last week, breaking and dislocating his thumb. He was operated on last Friday, to have a screw inserted into the base of the thumb, the expected recovery time to be around four weeks.

\*Great to see former Bonnyrigg and APiA midfielder Vuko Tomasevic doing so well for NSL club Northern Spirit. Tomasevic scored two goals in the 2-3 loss to Sydney Olympic on Friday night and had another strong game. He is yet another Premier League player to have made the transition to the National League with great aplomb. Well done Vuko!

\*Canterbury fans can expect to see coach Greg Woodhouse push former stopper Paul Bourke into the midfield this year. Bourke a defensive specialist the past few years has not played in the centre of the park since his days at Blacktown but according to our spies is doing a whale of a job.

\*Sutherland have completed their coaching appointments for season 2003 announcing former Hajduk Wanderers boss Phil Pavla as the clubs new under 18s coach. Over at Stanmore former Sydney Olympic youth coach Peter Papanikitas is their new appointment while Formerero Agenor Muniz is in charge at Dulwich Hill.

\*'From the Sidelines' is eager to get in touch with soccer historian Jim Jones, a resident of the Great Lakes area in NSW. If Jim reads this could he please get in touch with us on 0402 000534.





# NSW Premier League



## ROUND 1 PREVIEW



**Belconnen Blue Devils**

VS

**Bonnyrigg White Eagles**



**Saturday 23rd November, 2002 - 7.00pm**  
**McKELLAR SOCCER CENTRE, MCKELLAR**

Belconnen will christen their new home ground this Saturday night as they host Bonnyrigg.

The McKellar Soccer Ground will be officially opened before the game with a "friendly match" taking place before the main game due to kick-off at 7pm.

A Blue Devils Old Boys side will take on a Presidents XI, with former Soccerroo captain Johnny Warren, to be the game referee. There will also be a skydiver prior to the main game, and two top class matches, the youth game kicking off at the earlier time of 4pm.

In the playing ranks, Belconnen have assembled a very competitive squad and look to have the makings of a genuine top five contender.

Their main signing Ivo De Jesus will add some flair to the forward line, but fans should keep their eyes out for the goalscoring partnership of Daniel Macor and Marko Perinovic. Defender Elliot Zwagobani is considered only an outside chance to play with a leg injury while Stewart Camara will be on the injured list for the next ten weeks after an MRI scan revealed a torn right quadriceps.

The White Eagles form during the trials has been excellent with new

coach Ljube Jancev experimenting with some different combinations. Their playing staff has improved sharply with Freddy Umlil, Dong Ki-Kim and Kindness Agwu all quality inclusions to a side that look to be one of the sharpest in the competition.

Belconnen will need to keep a tight rein on striker Joe Bruni who looks to have shaken off a nasty back injury that curtailed his endeavors last season at APIA.

Belconnen has won only one of their past four meetings and will need to be at their best to topple one of the leagues favoured teams.



**Rockdale City Suns**

VS

**Central Coast Coasties**



**Saturday 23rd November, 2002 - 7.00pm**  
**JOHN CREHAN PARK, CRINGILA**

Rockdale return to top-flight football for the first time since their relegation in 1996, and face an interesting season opener at John Crehan Park in Cringila.

Since winning the Winter Super League Grand Final and promotion to the Premier League, the club has been working hard in promoting themselves to the soccer mad Illawarra, and they expect a bumper crowd for their first match.

John Crehan Park boasts an exceptional playing surface, a first class grandstand and floodlights, so it will be one game for Suns fans

not to miss.

On the park, Rockdale look to have assembled a very competitive squad and they will be keen to make their first home game a winning one. Trent Worrall will be the only Rockdale player on the injured list giving coach Mile Todorovski the opportunity to showcase his best side.

Of particular interest in the Rockdale ranks is the return of former Latvian International, Vadim Mikoutski who is returning to the Premier League after a season off.

The Coasties won't be walkovers, and given their solid

preseason form, they could really spring a surprise. New coach John McLafferty has swept the broom through the club promoting a number of their championship winning Under 19 side from last year and introducing a number of carefully selected experienced hands.

Fans should keep an eye out for Josh Maguire in the centre of the midfield and the clubs new forward line of James Monie and Peter Preston.

In their two previous meetings in season 1996, both ended in a draw.



**Penrith Panthers**

VS

**St George Saints**



**Saturday 23rd November, 2002 - 7.00pm**  
**ANDREW ROAD FIELD, PENRITH**

The new season is eagerly anticipated by both these sides that struggled to stay off the bottom last term, but did make progress and are looking for further advancement this campaign.

There are many new faces in the Panthers team and competition for places should be fiercer than in past years.

The return of favourite son Peter Bennett is bound to boost the locals, who will rely on the stability they have done well to build up in this squad that always boasts fantastic team spirit. Danny Hinton starts the season instead of coming in half way

through, Shane Hammond should show the benefit of a season in Singapore, while Garrett Dowling and Finlay Doney have joined from Bathurst and should add decent depth.

There are a number of other signings and the depth at the Panthers this season should carry them a long way. None of this will really interest St George, who do seem to be ready to take up where they left off last season. Bruno Beddoni is in from the start and if trial form is anything to go by, he will be a major asset once more, even if he is already in his mid-thirties. His fitness and ability is not

in any question and along with Jason Lal he ought to make up one of the most experienced spearheads in the league.

All this points to an interesting contrast in approach by the two opponents at Andrew Road Field and both sides will fancy their chances. Picking a winner is fraught with difficulty.

Honours have been even in past encounters between the two sides at this compact ground, with all three meetings thus far producing different outcomes and with just the one draw. Another deadlock it may be this time too.



**Fairfield Bulls**

VS

**A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers**



**Sunday 24th November, 2002 - 6.00pm**  
**NINEVEH FIELD, EDENSOR PARK**

Expect plenty of goal to goal action in this game, with the clash of two of the leagues heavyweights.

Fairfield coach Craig Sharpley will give some of his players until matchday in a bid to prove their fitness, as the clubs injury toll continues to mount.

Ryan O'Shea (broken foot) is out indefinitely, while Ben Green (Medial ligament Tear), Jason Connelly (Rib Cartilage), Mathew Borg (shoulder), Mark Honselaars (eye), Ismael Arrarte (knee) are all causing concern.

"It's not the start to the year we

would have hoped for" said coach Craig Sharpley, "but I am quietly confident we can put in a good showing first up. APIA look strong all around the park and we will need to be at our best to have any hope of the three points."

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt are looming as the championship favourites, given their off-season acquisitions, but they go into round one with a few injury concerns.

James Stubbs-Mills, Zlatko Arambasic and Sam Larocca are all in doubt, so it will be interesting to see how coach Les De Celis shuffles his starting eleven. New faces

Andrew Clark, Damon Langan, Marcus Stergiopoulos, Bob Catlin, Paul Dee and Ivan Zelic will all make their presence felt, but the player under the spotlight this week, will be veteran striker Zlatko Arambasic.

In partnership with the nippy Steve Karavatakis they will be a real handful for the Bulls back four.

Leichhardt are the Bulls 'bogey team' and have never beaten APIA in their six previous attempts. At Nineveh Field the closest they came was a 1-2 loss in-season 2000, with one draw from six meetings their only result.



**Bankstown City Lions**

VS

**Parramatta Eagles**



**Saturday 23rd November, 2002 - 7.00pm**  
**JENSEN PARK, SEFTON**

This is an encounter that should bring out the crowds; a local derby and a game between two sides that, arguably, could well fight out the title between them this term.

Bankstown has been an ambitious club for many years and one that has enjoyed much success.

After a less than sensational season last summer, they have rung the changes and do look a formidable outfit.

Under new coach Lee Sterrey they are expected to have another huge season and the recruiting does look highly exciting.

The addition of former NSL stars such as Brad Swancott, Ralph Bove, Todd McManus, Glenn Moore, Norm Tome, Elias Augerinos, and Rodney Madigan will definitely add an experience edged to the Lions outfit.

Parramatta on the other hand, as title holders, are going to be hard to beat in any game they play, as always and trial form, which has been patchy, should not be looked at too critically at this stage.

This game looms as a great tactical battle. Many games at Jensen Park featuring these sides have produced topsy-turvy contests and

this may be no exception. The outcome may set the trend for the season as a Bankstown win could be the first of many by a side that clearly is aiming for the top this season. But the man most likely to deny them the points will be the Eagles goalkeeper, Jason Holmes.

The teams have met six times at Jensen Park overall and the Lions have been beaten only once, back in 1997.

Significantly perhaps The Eagles have only managed a total of two goals in their last four contests at the Sefton Ground.



**C/bury-M/ville Olympic**

VS

**Blacktown City Demons**



**Sunday 24th November, 2002 - 6.00pm**  
**HENSON PARK, MARRICKVILLE**

The first game of last season was the meeting of these two sides at Henson Park on a Friday night and as Blacktown City coach Brian Brown admitted, when he spoke to ABSW last Friday night, the Canterbury-Marrickville side that shocked his Demons with a 5-2 win that night was not as potent a force as the one he expects Greg Woodhouse to produce this Saturday.

New players have been introduced at both clubs, as is usually the case, with Canterbury bringing in the most new faces.

Premier League fans can expect

entertainment with a capital E at the famous old Marrickville venue. New Berries signing striker Leigh Gunn has calf problems, at the moment, but another recruit, Shane Cevenini, has overcome his own injury concerns to burst into contention and has scored four goals against NSL opponents in trial games already.

The inclusion of the talented Ivan Necevski, in goal, is a huge plus, as well as young ex-Leichhardt Tigers and Ryde City midfielder, Michael O'Riley. Former Lambert Park regular, Allan Picken, could well be the youngest captain in the Premier League and will be an ideal man to

play in midfield and up front in case of need.

The Demons have a more settled squad with only Luke Roodenburg and Simon Catanzaro coming in at this early stage. This may work in their favour, against a completely new look Berries side.

Canterbury has won only two of its last eight home games against Blacktown and in all games played Canterbury has only won four of the 13 that have been contested. Statistics aside, many will expect an open attacking match and one that should provide an ideal opening for the new season for both clubs.





# Women's Soccer



## SAPPHIRES HAVE TOO MUCH VENOM FOR STING

**NSW Sapphires . . . . .2**

(Kylie Ledbrook 54', Taryn Rockall 79')

**Queensland Sting . . . . .0**

Venue: Carmichael Park, Brisbane

As they say in the classics, revenge is a dish best served cold. That is exactly what was on the menu when the NSW Sapphires travelled north to face league leaders, Queensland Sting at a cold and rain-soaked Carmichael Park on Saturday night.

Having lost their round 1 home fixture against the Sting in the final minutes of the game, the Sapphires had a lot to play for on this occasion. Not only was retribution for the early indiscretion on their minds, but also the opportunity to narrow the 4-point gap that Queensland had put into the rest of the field, and keep their hopes of securing a home final alive.

The Sapphires experimented with a new striking partnership of Leah Blayney and Catherine Cannuli with the line up behind them unchanged from the previous week. One notable addition to the bench was recent Matilda's debutante, Thea Slatyer, who had only returned from overseas two days beforehand. The Sting were missing the services of their goal-scoring captain, Kate McShea, who was serving a one game suspension and also defender Karla Reuter, who was a late withdrawal due to injury.

The Sapphires began the game running into a strong wind with the rain pouring from the heavens for the majority of the match. A tight contest was always expected from the two top teams in the WNSL, and the ensuing action didn't disappoint. In particular the match-ups between Jo Burgess against Heather Garriock and Michelle Carney against Lana Harch were indicative of the state of play. Burgess containing the in-form Garriock and Carney preventing Harch from getting too involved in proceedings.

Although no goals were scored in the first half, NSW did come close on a few occasions when Kylie Ledbrook shot wide from a

difficult angle and also backed that up with a sublime shot that hit the corner of the woodwork. Michelle Carney was also later denied a goal by a great save by Queensland goalkeeper, Claire Nichols after cutting in from the left a shooting low and hard.

The teams went into the break scoreless, but it was NSW who lifted in the second interval and made their opportunities count. The deadlock was broken nine minutes after the break after a Queensland defender lost the ball 25 metres out from goal, allowing Catherine Cannuli to run the ball towards goal before switching



Taryn Rockall slides in.

to an unmarked Kylie Ledbrook who sliced the ball from a tight angle over the diving Nichols. Shortly after the Sapphires were unlucky not to go further ahead when Leah Blayney shot from 20m and hit the crossbar, only for substitute Sarah Walsh to head the rebound straight into the arms of the Queensland keeper. Queensland were unlucky not to equalise following a defensive mix-up between Anissa Tann and Cassie Kell, when Belinda Dawney push her shot wide with little pressure.

The Sapphires eventually did secure the three points in the 79th minute when a Taryn Rockall corner kick, aimed at the near post, evaded all attackers and defenders, skidded off the wet ground, escaping the sights of the goalkeeper, before ending up in the back of the net. NSW dominated the rest of the half, as they did most of the game and thoroughly deserved the win.

Sapphires coach, Alen Stajcic, was suitably impressed by the efforts of his team.

"This was probably the best overall effort that we have had this season," said Stajcic.

"We were disciplined and structured and we played to the potential that I knew we could. In particular I was extremely pleased with the back 3 (Tann, Warrener and Collins) as well as Jo Burgess and Nicole Kimber. But everyone did their job and the result came with it," he said.

The Sapphires captain, Taryn Rockall, echoed her coaches thoughts and added, "The team was really buzzing out there, and it was good to finally have things click into place at the right time of the season."

"We were a little nervous coming into the game because of what



Lisa Warrener (left) challenges Jessica Mitchell (right).

was at stake, but the pressure was let off a little prior to the match when we heard that Victoria had a surprise win against Adelaide, which gave us the incentive to take the opportunity," concluded Rockall.

The Sapphires are now one-point behind Queensland and now face the Adelaide Sensation at home on Saturday the 23rd November at Valentine Sports Park (Kick-off 3pm). Even though Adelaide are coming to Sydney on the back of two losses, the spectre of Cheryl Salisbury returning from injury and the return of Dianne Alagich to the visitor's squad means that the Sapphires can't let complacency creep into their game and need to remain focused to secure a home final.

### Queensland Sting:

1. Claire Nichols 2. Pam Grant 15. Ellen Beaumont (Canham 54m) 3. Sarah Garven 7. Olivia Hohnke (Reed 88m) 8. Bryony Duus 9. Heather Garriock 10. Lana Harch 11. April Mann 12. Natalie Thomas 14. Belinda Dawney (Mitchell 70')

#### Substitutes:

13. Jessica Mitchell 16. Alannah Reed 4. Elissia Canham 17. Kate Castelanelli 18. Veronica Williams

**Yellow Cards:** Garrick 49', Mann 75'

**Red Cards:** Nil

### NSW Sapphires:

1. Cassie Kell 3. Lisa Warrener 4. Kath Collins 6. Anissa Tann 7. Kylie Ledbrook (Gilbert 88m) 8. Jo Burgess 10. Taryn Rockall 11. Michelle Carney (Slatyer 81m) 17. Leah Blayney 13. Catherine Cannuli (Walsh 67m) 14. Nicole Kimber

#### Substitutes:

2. Thea Slatyer 5. Lisa Gilbert 19. Sarah Walsh

**Yellow Cards:** Brook 73'

**Red Cards:** Nil

**Referee:** Jacquie Lalau

**Assistant Referees:** Rebecca Brox, Kate Wright

**Fourth Officials:** Tammy Ogston



Jo Burgess had a outstanding game.





# Women's Soccer



## SOCCER AUSTRALIA WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

By Janene Mar

**N**SW Sapphires put themselves within one point of frontrunners Queensland Sting with Saturday night's win over the 'maroons', also opening up a gap between the top pair and the remainder of the field thanks to Victoria Vision's surprise victory in Adelaide, whilst Canberra Eclipse still have their work cut out for them despite Sunday's win in Newcastle.

### ECLIPSE WITH LONG-AWAITED WIN

Canberra Eclipse, after three consecutive draws, finally secured the three points with a 2-0 win on Sunday over Northern NSW Pride to breathe some life back into their grandfinal hopes.

Visitors Eclipse were evenly matched in the first half by Northern NSW Pride with play openly switching from end to end, but the two went in at the break with no movement on the scoreboard.

Northern were unlucky not to score with several attempts striking the woodwork, but when Canberra claimed the lead fairly early into the second half, Northern's game fell away.

Midfielder Tal Karp gave Canberra the lead in the 57th minute,

a stunning rocket from the edge of the 18-yard box hitting the target with great velocity. Gwen David sealed the win in the 71st minute by celebrating her first ever WNSL goal, poking the ball home from amongst a goalmouth scramble.

**Pride** - Hunter, Dunne, Alley (Shepherd 66), Stevens (Aimie Neilson 40) (Melanie Cotts 80), Baker, Crawford, Amber Neilson, Colthorpe, McMinn, Gill, Wilson.

**Eclipse** - Beattie, Swaffer, Borucinski, Davies, Taylor (Brew 85), Wainwright (Staniforth 85), Karp, P Hepperlin, Thomson (Rukavina 46), Wilson, David.

### VISION CELEBRATE HUGE UPSET

Victoria Vision produced their first win for the season in emphatic fashion, a 4-0 upset over Adelaide Sensation on Saturday. After only a solitary goal scored six matches ago, four Vision players today posted their name on the scoresheet.

Victoria, hungry for the ball, instantly put the favourites on the back foot with two goals within eight minutes. The underdogs closed down their opponent, combined well, and made full use of their chances in attack. Adelaide Sensation, missing the leadership of midfielder Cheryl Salisbury, were overrun by the more power-

ful visitors, especially in the first half.

Forcing a corner almost from the kickoff, Victoria set the tone inside the very first minute, Sarah Fitzgerald's shot taking an awkward bounce over the diving keeper. Their killer second goal followed soon after, Sarah Groenewald cutting in from the left and threading the ball to meet the run of Jamara Maza who slotted the ball home. Midway through the first half, Victoria scored a third when a pinpoint cross found Selin Kuralay in front to sidefoot into the back of the net.

Adelaide increased their possession in the second half but could not convert, Lisa De Vanna and Stacey Stocco out of touch in the shooting stakes. Victoria remained dangerous on the break and scored goal number four with five minutes remaining. Substitute Meagan Thornton, one-on-one with the keeper, chipped the ball which went in off the post for her first ever league goal.

**Sensation** - Trimboli (Gubbins 46), May, Katianos, Walsh (Burgess 80), Benoist (Hodge 46), Slater, Stocco, Madden (Balomenos 46), Harrison, Blacker (Dickeson 74), De Vanna.

**Vision** - Barbieri, Groenewald, Black (Smith 86), Totsidis (Ferreira 46), Farrugia, Fitzgerald, Bisby, Terek, Lamb, Maza (Thornton 82), Kuralay (Skvarc 73).

## RESULTS

### ROUND SEVEN

**NSW Sapphires** 2

(Kylie Ledbrook 54', Taryn Rockall 79')

**Queensland Sting** 0

at Carmichael Park, Tingalpa  
Brisbane, QLD.

**Victoria Vision** 4

(Sarah Fitzgerald 1', Jamara Maza 8',  
Selin Kuralay 25', Meagan Thornton 85')

**Adelaide Sensation** 0

at Marden Sports Complex,  
Marden, SA.

**Canberra Eclipse** 2

(Tal Karp 57', Gwen David 71')

**Northern NSW Pride** 0

at Jack McLaughlan Oval,  
Edgeworth, NSW.

### —WNSL TABLE—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
QUEENSLAND STING	7	5	-	2	18	5	13	15
NSW SAPPHIRES	7	4	2	1	12	6	6	14
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	7	2	4	1	10	6	4	10
ADELAIDE SENSATION	7	3	1	3	9	13	-4	10
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	7	2	-	5	10	19	-9	6
VICTORIA VISION	7	1	1	5	5	15	-10	4

### —TOP GOALSCORERS—

6 -	Lisa De Vanna (Adelaide Sensation)
5 -	Kate McShea (Queensland Sting)
3 -	Katie Gill (Northern NSW Pride), Natalie Thomas (Queensland Sting), Amber Neilson (NNSW Pride), Tal Karp (Canberra Eclipse), Taryn Rockall (NSW Sapphires)
2 -	April Mann (Queensland Sting), Heather Garriock (Queensland Sting), Sarah Walsh (NSW Sapphires), Bryony Duus (Queensland Sting), Kristyn Swaffer (Canberra Eclipse), Danielle Small (NSW Sapphires), Amy Wilson (Canberra Eclipse), Belinda Dawney (Queensland Sting), Ashley Wilson (NNSW Pride)
1 -	Leah Blayney (NSW Sapphires), Elissa Canham (Queensland Sting), Catherine Cannuli (NSW Sapphires), Michelle Carney (NSW Sapphires), Lauren Colthorpe (NNSW Pride), Rose Dunne (NNSW Pride), Briony Duus (Queensland Sting), Sarah Groenewald (Victoria Vision), Olivia Hohnke (Queensland Sting), Caitlin Munoz (Canberra Eclipse), Stacey Stocco (Adelaide Sensation), Amy Taylor (Canberra Eclipse), Sarah Fitzgerald (Victoria Vision), Jamara Maza (Victoria Vision), Selin Kuralay (Victoria Vision), Meagan Thornton (Victoria Vision), Kylie Ledbrook (NSW Sapphires), Gwen David (Canberra Eclipse)

### ROUND EIGHT

**NSW Sapphires**

V

**Adelaide Sensation**

Date: **Saturday 23rd November**

Kick-Off: 3.00pm

Venue:

at Valentine Sports Park, Meurants Lane,  
Glenwood, NSW.

**Northern NSW Pride**

V

**Queensland Sting**

Date: **Sunday 24th November**

Kick-Off: 11.00am

Venue:

at Coffs Harbour International Sports Stadium,  
Hogbin Dr, Coffs Harbour. NNSW.

**Canberra Eclipse**

V

**Victoria Vision**

Date: **Sunday 24th November**

Kick-Off: 3.30pm

Venue:

at West Belconnen Leagues Club,  
Hardwick Cres, Holt. ACT.





# NSW Soccer Federation



## J-P's Coaching Tips

### Hi Everyone,

After a short break last week, my coaching tips column has returned.

To bring you up to speed with what has been going on, over the last couple of week's, we completed a Youth Licence Coaching Course at Valentine Sports Park with 66 candidates participating under difficult conditions with temperatures as high as 36°C. The coaches definitely earned their badges that weekend. Last weekend, we started a Senior Licence Coaching Course with 68 candidates attending.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the clubs and coaches for taking the responsibility of making sure that their coaching staff are all accredited. I have long believed that knowledge is a huge part of coaching, and that the information that you pass on to players is a responsibility that no coach should take lightly.

This week's technique is striking the ball with the instep of the foot. It is a skill that a player needs to perfect if they want to play at a higher level. During a game, you will be required to per-

form this particular technique on many occasions, for example switching play, a long ball or pass, a diagonal ball and most importantly, scoring goals.

This pass is used when the ball needs to be moved over a long distance to the feet, head or chest.

- Approach the ball at a slight angle, but almost straight on
- Remember to keep your foot pointed forward and at an angle of 45 degrees to the ground
- Keep the laces facing the ball.
- The ankle is kept rigid or locked throughout the movement and lift your toe slightly as you follow through.
- The non-kicking foot is beside the ball with the leg slightly bent at the knee to provide stability.
- Be sure to hit the middle of the ball or slightly

### The Instep Pass or Long Pass <sup>1</sup>



below the middle (the lower you kick below the midpoint of the ball, the higher it will go).

It is also important to remind the player to keep their head down and their toe pointed to the ground more to get the best results.

Once this technique has been learnt, you can utilise it in a modified game.

To start this game you will a field about the size of two penalty areas in size with a centre line down the middle, two full-sized goals and 4-5 players per side (including 1 goalkeeper).

The idea of the game is to have each team shoot for goal from within their own "penalty box half". The team in possession is able to pass the ball around to a suitable shooting position whilst the defending team moves around to block or intercept the shots.

The rules of the game are that the goalkeeper starts the play by rolling the ball to a team mate. If the player is in a suitable position, they may shoot or pass off to another team-mate.

There is a maximum of three passes between a team, and no player is allowed to cross the centre-

line to the other half. Balls that are out of play may be fed back in by the goalkeeper to restart.

As players begin to master this activity, you can vary it a little by putting a condition on which foot may be used to shoot, or the type of kick (inside or outside of the foot).

To promote more accuracy, full sized goals may be replaced with hockey goals and the goalkeeper removed from the action.

So there you have it, kicking with the instep and a fun game to utilise this skill.

*Well that's all for this week,  
Until next week  
Happy Coaching*

**Jean-Paul de Marigny**  
Coaching and Development Manager  
NSW Soccer Federation

1. Soccer Skills, Drills, Games and Program (2002), Skillster - Sports and PE Resources
2. Games for Football Training (1970), Gunster Lammich and Dr Heinz Kadow, Pelham Books.

## FIRST ANNUAL SYDNEY TOURNAMENT



**An elite Under 17 tournament that will be held at Valentine Sports Park from the 11th-19th January 2003.**

**For more information contact the NSW Soccer Federation ([tournament@soccernsw.com.au](mailto:tournament@soccernsw.com.au)) or**

**check-out the website [www.soccernsw.com.au](http://www.soccernsw.com.au)**

**Hurry nominations are limited to 16 teams and close on Friday 29th November, 2002.**





# Head to Head



**Tony Giannessca**  
(Belconnen Blue Devils)



**Kindness Agwu**  
(Bonnyrigg White Eagles)



**Richard Plesa**  
(Rockdale City Suns)



**Dan Surridge**  
(Central Coast Coasties)



**Chad Taylor**  
(Penrith Panthers)



**Angelos Petratos**  
(St George Saints)



**Stewart van Bentum**  
(Fairfield Bulls)



**James Stubbs Mills**  
(A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers)



**Todd McManus**  
(Bankstown City Lions)



**Tim Gledhill**  
(Parramatta Eagles)



**Allan Picken**  
(Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic)



**Jim Nikas**  
(Blacktown City Demons)





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## Soccer Bodies on Central Coast Get Onside for the Future

In a landmark meeting held at the Mingara Club on Thursday the 7th of November, 2002 between the Central Coast Soccer Association (CCSA), The Central Coast Coasties Soccer Club and The Mingara Lakers Soccer Club, a memorandum of understanding was signed by each body which will ensure the future growth and development of soccer in the region.

Following many months of careful negotiation, involving representatives from each organisation as well as input from the NSW

Amateur Soccer Federation and the NSW Soccer Federation, the joint agreement provides a blueprint for all parties to work together in a partnership of equals that will benefit the Central Coast Soccer Community.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Coasties, Mingara Lakers and the CCSA will form a working alliance (Joint Representative Committee) with a view to jointly oversee the development of boys and girls youth league representative teams within the Central Coast region from 2003 onward, in accordance

with the unification of the code within NSW.

The Joint Representative Committee of nine (9) will be formed with three (3) representatives from each body to meet on a regular basis to discuss and implement policies and procedures relating to the administration, development, selection and financial management of youth representative soccer on the Central Coast.

The CCSA will be responsible for administering the local central coast competitions and also will field teams in the Under 11 youth league competition in

2003 and Under 11 & 12 youth league competitions in 2004 and beyond. The Coasties and Mingara Lakers will also support the CCSA in these endeavours.

The Coasties will manage a boy's Premier Youth League and girls Youth League Teams from the region that compete in the Under 12 - Under 17 age groups in 2003. The Coasties will also be responsible for the senior men's representative teams that compete in the NSW Premier League. In turn the CCSA and the Mingara Lakers will equally support them.

The Mingara Lakers will field teams in the boy's Super Youth League in Women's Super League and Men's State League Division 2 in 2003, competitions and will also be supported by the CCSA and the Coasties in this effort.

This is a truly significant step along the road to the ultimate unification of soccer in the state of NSW. The effect of this agreement will be to maximise resources and expertise in the continued task of furthering the development and management of our game.



Mr J. Forrest-Chairman



Sandra, Mike, Michelle



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# ITALIAN SERIE A

## ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

**L**azio may be the next Italian club to fold. It happened to Fiorentina a few months ago and now the Rome-based sky blue outfit could be next.

Cirio, a company that belongs to Sergio Cragnotti and his family, owns Lazio. Cragnotti is therefore also the President of Lazio.

The company is debt ridden and losing money very fast. Their shares have been suspended by the Italian stock exchange. Lazio are desperate for new owners to come in and rid them of Cirio and Cragnotti. However, it isn't that simple.

Who wants to buy a club that will have to sell players once the January transfer window re-opens?

Part of the blame for Lazio's problems must rest with former coach Sven Goran Eriksson. In order to win the league title in 2000 Cragnotti virtually handed him a blank chequebook.

Christian Vieri, Hernan Crespo, Gaizka Mendieta and Japp Stam, are just some of the players that cost the club a fortune in recent years. Lazio, like many other clubs in Europe, spent far too much on certain players.

The enormous wages bill faced by a professional club is the biggest problem in world soccer today. Some in Europe, like the G14, are talking about self regulation.

There is no doubt that a downward adjustment of players' wages is just around the corner. Clubs can't afford, and therefore will not offer, the money previously dished out in the past.

Fiorentina is the classic example and one hopes that it is the only example. The Italian media for months were predicting the demise of Fiorentina.

After spending a few days in Florence in January earlier this year, the impression one got was that the locals felt that it was all media hype. Fiorentina were not going anywhere and something would be done in the end.

A few months later Fiorentina were officially declared broke. Their former owner Vittorio Cecchi Gori is currently under house arrest for fraud and the city has a new team, Fiorentina Viola, which is currently playing in Italy's Fourth Division.

Surely this is a lesson for all. If the once mighty Fiorentina can just vanish so too can Lazio and any other club. Exorbitant player wages is killing soccer in Europe.

★★★★

**C**omo are a funny old club. After more than a decade away from the Serie A they returned this season. The players that got them there were virtually all rewarded with the sack.

Last week their President Enrico Preziosi announced during a television interview that he was stepping down. His bizarre announcement was made because he felt that the referees were treating his club unfairly.

The game that most upset him was the one-nil loss to Bologna that had just been played. He accused the referee of favouring Bologna.

So what? It happens all the time and bad decisions are just part of the game. Imagine if everyone walked away from soccer just because they were upset at the referee in a particular game.

The cry baby Preziosi is obviously a person that the Serie A could do without. His dummy spit is laughable and childish.

His club Como announced a few days later that they were signing Daniel Fonseca. This decision is almost as laughable.

Fonseca is the 33 year old Uruguayan who once played for Napoli, Juventus and Roma. However, his best days are well and truly behind him.

In fact he never really did much in the Serie A and his country hasn't required his services for a few years. So why did Como buy him?

Well that is anyone's guess but they must know something that no one else knows. Fonseca would be more suitable in the NSL than in the Serie A.

★★★★

**G**iancarlo Camolese of Torino was the first and Bortolo Mutti of Reggina followed. Will Giovanni Vavassori of Atalanta be next?

Of course they are on this year's honour roll of sacked Serie A coaches. Torino have brought in Renzo Ulivieri and Reggina Luigi De Canio.

Vavassori for the record has received the vote of confidence from the Atalanta chairman.



Parma goalkeeper Sebastian Frey dives in vain as Andrea Pirlo converts the decisive penalty for AC Milan.

### ROMA 2 INTER 2

**A**late equaliser from Okan Buruk denied Roma a chance to re-establish their title credentials against table-topping Inter Milan.

The Giallorossi, who have again struggled to build the momentum that took them to the title in 2001, looked to be on their way to a valuable three points when Gabriel Batistuta put them 2-1 ahead after 73 minutes.

Inter came back to earn a share of the points although it may not be enough to fend off second-placed

Inter had hit the opener on the hour through Morfeo but within a minute, Vincent Montella had levelled.

Batistuta gave Roma the advantage before Okan Buruk earned the point for the leaders.

### TORINO 0 JUVENTUS 4

**J**uventus secured a stunning 4-0 victory over Torino in the Turin derby at the Stadio Delle Alpi.

Federico Magallanes tested Gianluigi Buffon with a free-kick early on, but not long afterwards Juve were ahead when Alessandro Del Piero flicked home Pavel Nedved's inswinging free-kick.

They went 2-0 ahead when Castellini carelessly gave the ball away to Nedved who put Marco Di Vaio through. The former Parma man made no mistake as he curled past Luca Bucci.

On 51 minutes Juve tripled their lead when Nedved superbly fired into the top corner of the net. Two minutes from the end Torino's humiliation was complete when Edgar Davids finished off a swift counterattack.

### BOLOGNA 2 PERUGIA 2

**J**ulio Cruz netted his fifth goal in eight games to send Bologna on their way to a 2-1 victory over Perugia.

The former Feyenoord forward was joined on the scoresheet by team-mate Giuseppe Signori, who has now scored twice since returning from a knee injury earlier this month.

Andrea Caracciolo pulled a goal back for Perugia but it was not enough to prevent Bologna claiming all three points.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men late in the game as Rahman Rezaei was sent off in stoppage time.

### AC MILAN 2 PARMA 1

**A**ndrea Pirlo scored twice from the penalty spot to give AC Milan a 2-1 home win over Parma in Serie A on Sunday.

Pirlo had put Milan ahead three minutes into the second half before Emanuele Filippini equalised in the

64th minute. But a second penalty in the 70th minute, strongly contested by Parma, gave Carlo Ancelotti's side the three points to move them into second place behind leaders Internazionale FC.

### COMO 1 LAZIO 3

**L**azio maintained their good run of form with a 3-1 win at Como, Argentinian striker Claudio Lopez scoring twice.

Diego Simeone gave the visitors the lead on 16 minutes but Nicola Corrent equalised for Como 20 minutes later. Lopez scored his first of the match ten minutes after the interval, before making the points safe on 62 minutes.

### UDINESE 2 CHIEVO 1

**U**dinese ended Chievo Verona's four-match winning run with a 2-1 win over the visiting Verona side.

Martin Jorgensen broke the deadlock for Udinese after 15 minutes, before German international striker Carsten Jancker doubled the hosts' advantage eight minutes later.

Oliver Bierhoff reduced the arrears for Chievo five minutes after half-time but the visitors' misery was complete when Sulley Ali Muntari was sent off for a second bookable offence.

### MODENA 1 PIACENZA 0

**O**mar Milanetto's first-half penalty proved to be enough for Modena to take all three points from Sunday's clash with Piacenza.

Milanetto fired home the winner after 33 minutes to hand Modena their sixth win since winning promotion at the start of the season.



Diego Simeone opens the scoring for Lazio against Como.

### EMPOLI 4 REGGINA 2

**A**ntonio di Natale netted a hat-trick as Empoli heaped more misery on lowly Reggina.

Di Natale opened the scoring after just three minutes before netting his second six minutes before half-time, the goal restoring Empoli's advantage after a Shunsuke Nakamura penalty had earlier brought Reggina level.

Tommaso Rocchi extended the home side's lead from the spot at the start of the second half and, although Reggina hit back again through Jorge Vargas, Di Natale had the final say with his third in injury time.

### ATALANTA 2 BRESCIA 0

**T**wo goals inside three second-half minutes helped Atalanta to their second win of the season and lifted them off bottom spot in Serie A.

Ousmane Dabo struck in the 69th minute and then Gianni Comandini added a second two minutes later as the Bergamo side handed Brescia their sixth league defeat of the season.

## FIXTURES Sunday 24 November, 2002

AC Milan v Inter Milan  
Brescia v Udinese  
Chievo v Empoli  
Juventus v Bologna  
Lazio v Modena  
Parma v Roma  
Perugia v Como  
Piacenza v Torino  
Reggina v Atalanta

Bologna 2 - 1 Perugia, AS Roma 2 - 2 Inter Milan, AC Milan 2 - 1 Parma, Atalanta 2 - 0 Brescia, Como 1 - 3 Lazio, Empoli 4 - 2 Reggina, Modena 1 - 0 Piacenza, Udinese 2 - 1 Chievo, Torino 0 - 4 Juventus.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Juventus	10	7	3	0	18	5	24
2 Internazionale	10	7	2	1	21	11	23
3 Milan	10	7	1	2	25	8	22
4 Lazio	10	6	3	1	18	8	21
5 Chievo	10	6	0	4	19	12	18
6 Bologna	10	5	3	2	12	8	18
7 Modena	10	6	0	4	11	12	18
8 Roma	10	4	4	2	21	16	16
9 Empoli	10	5	1	4	18	15	16
10 Udinese	10	4	2	4	8	11	14
11 Parma	10	3	4	3	15	14	13
12 Perugia	10	3	2	5	12	19	11
13 Piacenza	10	2	2	6	8	14	8
14 Brescia	10	2	2	6	13	20	8
15 Atalanta	10	2	1	7	10	20	7
16 Torino	10	2	0	8	6	21	6
17 Reggina	10	1	2	7	8	19	5
18 Como	10	0	4	6	6	16	4





# ENGLISH



## An English Odyssey

By Stuart Jones

Welcome to another week of mayhem. Relatively good news from European competition with Arsenal, Manchester United, and Newcastle (who left it very late) progressing to the next round.

Liverpool, despite letting three goals in in the first half hour, almost made it but 3-3 was one goal shy of what they needed. In the UEFA cup Fulham and Leeds progressed whilst Ipswich lost on penalties and Blackburn lost to Celtic.

The UEFA cup loss for Ipswich was coupled with the bad news that in the last financial year the club has lost 3.3 million pounds.

Paul Gascoigne this week may well play for Morpeth in the North East. It will be a long way from his days at Newcastle and Lazio. On the other hand his days at Tottenham should have prepared him well for playing with a side like Morpeth. (My apologies to any Morpeth fans out there for comparing them to Spurs.)

Nice to see Stoke clamping down on racism. This week they have banned nine of their supporters after being found guilty of abusing Wolves players in a recent match at the Britannia Stadium. The life ban was automatic punishment for such offences, and so it should be.

There are stories around the north east that some the summer Alan Boksic may return home to Croatia and play the new season with Hajduk Split. His contract with Middlesbrough is up at the end of the season.

If Rory Allen is out there somewhere - sir if you want your game to be up please get in touch with your club! Portsmouth recently received a resignation letter from the former Spurs player who has spent much time on the sidelines in the last two years. Club officials said they received the letter but if he wants to quit properly he needs to sign some forms and get in touch with the club. The club thinks he has joined the Barmy Army and is following the cricket around Australia. A good point from a representative of the Army was made when he pointed out Rory should not be too hard to find in the Barmy lot - he will be the only one who looks slightly fit!

Cardiff City announced this week that they have signed Fan Zhiyi, a defender in the Chinese World Cup squad of this year. He has previously played at Dundee and Crystal Palace and has been on a free transfer since the World Cup so there are no problems in regards to the transfer window guidelines.

After 18 games of the Conference Yeovil lead the way three points clear of Chester with Doncaster and Southport just a point away. Kettering is bottom with Stevenage five points clear of them second from last.

Finally this week a bit of a step back in time. The Season is 1963/64 and the results across England at seasons end looked this way.

League Cup: The two legged semis saw Leicester defeat West Ham 6-3 on aggregate (4-3, 2-0) and Stoke defeat Manchester City 2-1 (2-0, 0-1). In the final Leicester drew away at Stoke 1-1 before winning at home 3-2 and thereby taking out the cup 4-3 on aggregate.

FA Cup: Between the first match played (Anfield Plain lost 1-2 to Stanley United) and the last (West Ham defeated Preston 3-2 in the Final at Wembley) there were the usual upsets. In Round 1: Darlington 1 Gateshead 4, Millwall 2 Kettering 3, Yeovil 1 Southend 0. In Round 2: Yeovil 3 Crystal Palace 1. In Round 3: Aldershot 2 Aston Villa 1 (in the replay the first game finishing 0-0). Newcastle Utd 1 Bedford 2. In Round 6: Liverpool 1 Swansea 2. The Semis had their own upset when West Ham beat Manchester United 3-1 (Preston defeated Swansea 2-1 in the other one).

In the league Liverpool were top of Division One with Man Utd runners up. Bolton and Ipswich were relegated. Leeds won the second division and second placed Sunderland were also promoted. Grimsby and Scunthorpe dropped to Division three whilst Coventry (winners of Div 3) and Crystal Palace would replace them. Millwall, Crewe, Wrexham and Notts County were relegated whilst from the bottom tier Gillingham, Carlisle, Workington and Exeter went up. Gillingham were champions despite finishing on the same points as Carlisle an Carlisle scoring 113 and conceding just 58. Gillingham scored only 59 but conceded just 30 and on goal average Gillingham were champs 1.966 compared to 1.948. Barrow finished bottom of the league but survived relegation.

Nine of the 22 teams playing in the top flight then are not in the top flight come 2002 but interestingly all the six who were not in the top flight then but are today finished in the top eight of the second division back in 1964.

In non league football 1963/64 Yeovil town won the Southern League with Chelmsford running second. Merthyr Tydfil, Hereford, Kettering and Hinckley were all relegated. Folkestone, Kings Lynn, Chelmsford and Tonbridge were all promoted from the second division whilst Barry Town finished bottom. The Isthmian league saw Wimbledon champions, Hexham come second, and Clapton last. In the Midland League Grantham came first, Scarborough second, and Denaby United last. In the Northern League Stanley United were champions, a point ahead of Crook Town with Durham City last.

Finally in the Athenian League Premier Division Barnet was first and Findley second. Southall came last but were not relegated as Wealdstone left the competition. In the first division Leatherhead, Worthing and Edgware were promoted whilst at the other end Epsom - Ewell finished bottom. In the second division Tilbury won it and gained promotion alongside Harrow, Harlow, and Hertford. Histon finished bottom.

Until next week keep loving your football.

Goals from Thierry Henry, Freddie Ljungberg and Sylvain Wiltord helped Arsenal move back to the top of the Barclaycard Premiership as they claimed a 3-0 victory in the north London derby against Tottenham at Highbury.

Henry collected the ball deep in his own half in the 13th minute and was allowed to advance towards goal before curling the ball past Kasey Keller for his 12th goal of the season. There was worse to come for Spurs when Wales international Simon Davies sent off for a second bookable offence in the 27th minute.

Ljungberg made the result safe for Arsenal when he scored from close range in the 55th minute after being teed up by Henry and Wiltord tucked away a third with 20 minutes to go. Liverpool missed out on the chance to regain top spot in the Premiership as they were held to a goalless draw by Sunderland at Anfield.

Gerard Houllier's side completely dominated the game but failed to score for the second league game in a row despite 24 goal attempts.

Black Cats goalkeeper Jurgen Macho was in inspired form as the visitors stretched their unbeaten run in the league to four matches under new manager Howard Wilkinson.

Manchester United failed to take full advantage of Liverpool's slip up to close the gap in the title race as they had to settle for a draw at struggling West Ham.

Ruud van Nistelrooy gave Sir Alex Ferguson's side the lead in the first half as he flicked Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's cross over David James.

Jermain Defoe equalised just five minutes from time despite looking off-side as he received Michael Carrick's pass, but there was still time for Solskjaer and van Nistelrooy to waste good chances to snatch all three points.

The point was enough for the Hammers to climb off the bottom of the table, although only on goal difference from West Brom.

Everton secured a record fifth straight victory, and a fourth consecutive 1-0 win, courtesy of Kevin Campbell's first-half strike at Blackburn. Campbell took advantage of some poor marking from the home side at Ewood Park to slot home Lee Carsley's cross and complete a miserable week for Graeme Souness' side after their UEFA Cup exit at the hands of Celtic.

Leeds left the field to cries of "Venables out" as two goals in the closing two minutes saw Bolton win 4-2 at Elland Road.

Michael Ricketts kept his cool to beat Paul Robinson from the penalty spot and Henrik Pedersen netted in the last minute to move Bolton off the foot of the table - and heap the pressure back on Leeds coach Terry Venables. The home side went a goal down after just two minutes as Pedersen latched onto Yuri Djorkaeff's pass and beat Robinson.

In-form Alan Smith equalised 84 seconds later but Djorkaeff put the visitors ahead again and although Harry Kewell got Leeds back on level terms for a second time, Pedersen and Ricketts sealed a vital victory for Sam Allardyce's side.

Birmingham and nine-man Fulham fought out a goalless draw at St Andrews as Edwin van der Sar saved Stern John's penalty.

Rufus Brevett received his marching orders after 35 minutes for handling Darren Purse's header on the line but van



Fredrik Ljungberg of Arsenal battles with Stephen Carr of Tottenham Hotspur.

der Sar saved John's spot-kick. With 11 minutes left Steve Marlet kicked out in retaliation after being fouled by Robbie Savage and was also dismissed by referee Matt Messias, but Steve Bruce's side could not capitalise.

Third-placed Chelsea strengthened their position with a 1-0 win over Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge.

Nigerian full-back Celestine Babayaro broke the deadlock in the 47th minute as he beat Boro goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer with a right-footed effort.

Newcastle overcame the tired legs from their midweek Champions League heroics to beat Southampton 2-1 at St James' Park. The Magpies had looked set to come down to earth with a bump as a stunning second-minute volley by James Beattie gave Southampton the lead at St James' Park with his sixth goal in as many games.

Sir Bobby Robson's side secured their place in the last 16 of the Champions League with a dramatic 3-2 win over Feyenoord on Wednesday night and they showed their fighting spirit to pull level again as Shola Ameobi equalised in the 41st minute.

They secured their sixth win in seven home league games thanks to Aaron Hughes' first goal since January.

The midlands derby between West Brom and Aston Villa finished goalless at The Hawthorns as both sides failed to improve their position in the wrong half of the table. Villa thought they should have had a penalty on the stroke of half-time when Mark Delaney appeared to be fouled by Baggies defender Phil Gilchrist, but referee Dermot Gallagher turned the appeals down.

They were awarded a spot-kick in the 73rd minute when Igor Balis tripped Gareth Barry, but Dion Dublin's powerful effort was blocked by Albion goalkeeper Russell Hoult.

Manchester City failed to follow up their their memorable derby triumph over Manchester United last week as they lost 1-0 at home to Charlton.

The home side enjoyed the majority of the possession and chances but it was Alan Curbishley's side who claimed the points and climbed one place to 16th thanks to Shaun Bartlett's 79th minute goal.

## PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 3 - 0 Tottenham H., Chelsea 1 - 0 Middlesbrough, Manchester C. 0 - 1 Charlton Athletic, Newcastle U. 2 - 1 Southampton, West Bromwich A. 0 - 0 Aston Villa, Liverpool 0 - 0 Sunderland, Birmingham C. 0 - 0 Fulham, Blackburn R. 0 - 1 Everton, Leeds U. 2 - 4 Bolton W., West Ham U. 1 - 1 Manchester U.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	14	10	2	2	31	13	32
2. Liverpool	14	9	4	1	24	10	31
3. Chelsea	14	7	5	2	24	12	26
4. Everton	14	8	2	4	17	15	26
5. Manchester U	14	6	5	3	18	13	23
6. Newcastle	13	7	1	5	20	17	22
7. Middlesbrough	14	6	3	5	16	11	21
8. Blackburn	14	5	5	4	19	15	20
9. Tottenham	14	6	2	6	17	21	20
10. Leeds	14	5	2	7	19	20	17
11. Southampton	14	4	5	5	14	15	17
12. Manchester C	14	5	2	7	14	20	17
13. Fulham	14	4	4	6	17	18	16
14. Aston Villa	14	4	4	6	10	12	16
15. Birmingham	14	4	4	6	14	18	16
16. Charlton	14	4	2	8	11	18	14
17. Sunderland	14	3	5	6	8	16	14
18. Bolton	13	3	3	7	16	24	12
19. West Ham	14	3	3	8	14	24	12
20. West Bromwich	14	3	3	8	10	21	12

## FIRST DIVISION

Brighton & Hove A. 1 - 0 Derby County, Coventry C. 0 - 2 Wolverhampton W., Gillingham 1 - 1 Sheffield W., Grimsby T. 3 - 3 Preston North End, Millwall 2 - 2 Leicester C., Norwich C. 2 - 0 Crystal Palace, Nottingham F. 3 - 0 Bradford C., Portsmouth 3 - 0 Stoke C., Rotherham U. 0 - 0 Burnley, Postp. Sheffield U. ? - ? Reading, Wimbledon 3 - 2 Walsall, Watford 0 - 2 Ipswich T.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	19	14	3	2	41	17	45
Leicester	18	11	5	2	29	16	38
Norwich	19	10	6	3	33	15	36
Nottm Forest	18	9	6	3	32	15	33
Watford	18	9	4	5	25	25	31
Wolverhampton	18	8	5	5	36	20	29
Sheff Utd	17	9	2	6	21	14	29
Rotherham	18	8	5	5	26	23	29
Coventry	19	7	6	6	31	23	27
Coventry	19	7	6	6	23	25	27
Burnley	19	7	5	7	27	33	26
Wimbledon	19	7	4	8	28	30	25
Crystal Palace	18	5	9	4	28	23	24
Derby	19	7	3	9	21	25	24
Gillingham	19	6	6	7	20	26	24
Millwall	19	6	5	8	21	30	23
Preston	18	4	9	5	28	30	21
Walsall	19	5	4	10	28	34	19
Bradford	19	4	7	8	21	32	19
Ipswich	16	4	5	7	19	20	17
Grimsby	19	4	5	10	22	37	17
Stoke	19	3	5	11	20	36	14
Sheff Wed	19	2	7	10	15	29	13
Brighton	17	3	2	12	16	33	11

## SECOND DIVISION

Barnsley 3 - 2 Cardiff C., Colchester U. 2 - 2 Bristol C., Crewe Alexandra 2 - 1 Brentford, Huddersfield T. 0 - 0 Wycombe W., Luton T. 0 - 0 Port Vale, Notts County 2 - 2 Mansfield T., Peterborough U. 1 - 0 Chesterfield, Plymouth Argyle 2 - 2 Oldham Athletic, Queens Park R. 0 - 1 Northampton T., Stockport County 1 - 1 Cheltenham, Swindon T. 1 - 1 Tranmere R., Blackpool 0 - 2 Wigan Athletic.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	18	11	5	2	32	13	38
Oldham	18	11	4	3	32	12	37
Cardiff	18	11	1	6	30	15	37
Bristol City	17	11	4	5	33	17	34
Crewe	18	9	4	5	25	15	31
QPR	18	8	5	5	28	18	29
Brentford	18	8	5	5	25	21	29
Blackpool	18	8	3	7	24	24	27
Chesterfield	18	8	3	7	16	20	27
Luton	18	7	5	6	27	26	26
Tranmere	18	7	3	8	18	29	24
Wycombe	18	6	5	7	24	25	23
Port Vale	18	6	5	7	21	25	23
Northampton	18	6	4	8	18	24	22
Stockport	18	6	3	9	22	24	21
Plymouth	18	5	6	7	23	27	21
Barnsley	18	5	5	8	19	28	20
Swindon	18	5	4	9	20	27	19
Notts County	17	3	9	5	22	24	18
Huddersfield	18	4	6	8	13	20	18
Colchester	18	4	6	8	16	24	18
Peterborough	18	4	5	9	20	25	17
Cheltenham	18	4	5	9	18	25	17
Mansfield	18	4	3	11	26	44	15

## FIXTURES

### Saturday 23 November

Aston Villa v West Ham

Bolton v Chelsea

Everton v West Brom

Fulham v Liverpool

Man Utd v Newcastle

Middlesbrough v Man City

Southampton v Arsenal

Sunderland v Birmingham

### Sunday 24 November

Charlton v Blackburn

Tottenham v Leeds





# German Bundesliga

**B**undesliga leaders Bayern Munich maintained their lead at the top over Borussia Dortmund as both sides recorded tight victories while Hertha Berlin moved up to third.

Former Bayern Munich skipper Stefan Effenberg returned to the Olympiastadion with new team Wolfsburg to see the club's future in safe hands after the Champions League outcasts ran out 1-0 winners.

Paraguayan youngster Roque Santa Cruz, expected to net a bevy of goals for Bayern in the years ahead and gradually being introduced to the first team, was given a chance to start and he took advantage by heading home a 27th minute winner, which kept Bayern five points clear at the top of the table.

Effenberg, who left Bayern as a free agent in the summer, was busy and central to much of what Wolfsburg did well, but it was a losing return for the man who captained the club to Champions League glory just 18 months ago.

Borussia Dortmund shrugged off idle talk of a crisis at

the Westfalenstadion, strengthening their grip on second place with a 1-0 home victory against 1860 Munich.

Defeat by Bayern Munich last weekend may have been a disappointing result, but it was hardly season-defining, while their loss to Auxerre in the Champions League this week came when their qualification was already assured.

The champions stamped their authority on their visitors early, with Brazilian Ewerthon heading in after six minutes and it proved to be the only goal of the match.

Hertha Berlin were the big movers after their hard-fought 1-0 win over Hannover.

With Stuttgart and 1860 Munich dropping points and Werder Bremen and Bochum not playing until tomorrow, Bart Goor's 17th minute strike was enough to lift the capital side four places.

For the home team, it was their first defeat in three games.

Bayer Leverkusen escaped with a point from a 2-2 draw against Borussia Monchengladbach in a match they did their best to lose.

Last season's Champions League finalists looked almost inept against mediocre opposition and had Diego Placente sent off as they chased the game.

Igor Demo gave Monchengladbach an early lead which was equalised soon afterwards by Daniel Bierofka.

Bernd Korzynietz put the visitors back in front on the hour mark and the dismissal of defender Placente 15 minutes from the end for stamping looked to have ended the home side's hopes.

But Bierofka pounced for the second time in the match to level scores again with just three minutes remaining and Klaus Toppmoller's side were satisfied to accept a point.

Hamburg brought an end to their horrendous away form by recording a 3-1 success at Nurnberg.

Having collected just a single point on their travels before the game, Kurt Jara's team won thanks to second-half goals from Marcel Maltritz and Bernardo Romeo.

It meant a continuation of good form for Romeo, who

scored in their recent 1-0 win over 1860 Munich.

Hansa Rostock and Stuttgart scored a goal each and both teams had a man sent off for a result which will do the home side more favours than the visitors.

Stuttgart could have moved into third with a win, but they might be grateful just to have won a point after Rade Prca put struggling Rostock ahead in the fourth minute.

Kevin Kuranyi equalised before Stuttgart's Fernando Meira and Rostock's Bachirou Salou were sent off after clashing just past the hour mark.

Energie Cottbus picked up only their second win of the season as they fought hard to see off Arminia Bielefeld 2-1.

Christian Bieck netted the decisive goal

for the home side but was then sent off in the immediate aftermath after picking up a second yellow card for over-celebrating.

Andrei Kobylanski had put Cottbus ahead in the eighth minute and Rudiger Kauf reduced the deficit for the visitors after 72 minutes.

Kaiserslautern suffered a defeat they will struggle to recover from this season on Sunday.

It summed up all that is rotten about Eric Gerets' team, as they opened up a 3-1 lead against Werder Bremen but were then swept away once the home side got into gear.

Making matters worse, Ciriaco Sforza, the man Kaiserslautern supporters and the German media have blamed for the team's slump this season, was sent off after being booked twice in three first-half minutes.

Goncalves Ailton got two goals for Bremen who climbed to third as a result, with Lautern languishing in bottom spot and looking doomed to relegation even at this early stage of the season.

German international Jorg Bohme did not make his expected return to the Schalke team after a club suspension, and it was two other players capped by the national team who gave Schalke a 2-0 victory at Bochum which lifts them to fourth in the Bundesliga.

Retired international Andy Moller put them ahead in the 48th minute, and Gerald Asamoah - a member of Rudi Voller's current squad - added the second goal four minutes from the end.

Bohme was suspended by Schalke on Thursday due to unspecified breaches of club discipline but was reintegrated to the squad on Friday and had been expected to feature.

Bayer Leverkusen 2 - 2 Monchengladbach, Bayern Munich 1 - 0 Wolfsburg, Borussia Dortmund 1 - 0 Munich 1860, Energie Cottbus 2 - 1 Arminia Bielefeld, Hannover 0 - 1 Hertha BSC, Hansa Rostock 1 - 1 Stuttgart, Nurnberg 1 - 3 Hamburger SV, Bochum 0 - 2 Schalke, Werder Bremen 5 - 3 Kaiserslautern.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	13	9	2	2	29	14	29
Borussia Dortmund	13	6	6	1	19	9	24
Werder Bremen	13	7	2	4	27	25	23
Schalke	13	6	4	3	16	11	22
Hertha Berlin	13	6	4	3	16	12	22
VfB Stuttgart	13	5	6	2	21	15	21
VfL Bochum	13	6	2	5	27	21	20
1860 Munich	13	6	2	5	18	15	20
Wolfsburg	13	6	1	6	15	16	19
Hamburg	13	6	1	6	16	19	19
Bayer Leverkusen	13	4	4	5	17	20	16
Nurnberg	13	5	1	7	16	21	16
Borussia M'gladbach	13	4	3	6	16	12	15
Hansa Rostock	13	4	3	6	15	14	15
Hannover 96	13	4	3	6	22	27	15
Arminia Bielefeld	13	4	2	7	13	22	14
Cottbus	13	2	2	9	7	27	8
FC Kaiserslautern	13	1	4	8	12	22	7

# Spanish Primera Liga

**B**ochum scored three times in the second half to come from behind and beat Wolfsburg 4-1. Deportivo La Coruna accounted for Barcelona in their Primera Liga clash that failed to live-up to the pre-match hype while a late goal gave Villarreal victory over Sevilla.

Barcelona's indifferent form in Spain's la Liga continued as they conceded two goals in the final ten minutes to go down 2-0 at Deportivo La Coruna.

Despite being the only side to win all six matches in the Champions League first group phase, Louis van Gaal's side have struggled to find the same consistency on the domestic front.

At the Riazor, Depor patiently waited until the 82nd minute before they broke through for the opener.

Lionel Scaloni was on target for the Galicians after a clever dummy by Dutch striker Roy Makaay gave him the space to fire home.

Substitute Alberto Luque made the game safe four minutes later when his low drive found the back of the net.

The victory moves Javier Irureta's side up four places to fifth with 17 points while Barca remain on 15 points but drop back a place to seventh.

However, the standings are sure to change tomorrow with the top four and sixth-placed Real Madrid all in action.

Martin Palermo failed to end his own goal drought but he set up Brazilian Juliano Belletti to score the 88th minute winning goal for Villarreal against Sevilla.

The Argentinian striker is yet to score this season but it was his ball that picked out Belletti, who volleyed home two minutes from the end to seal the 1-0 win.

The goal arrived a minute after Villarreal had been reduced to 10 men when Sergio Ballesteros was red carded for elbowing Victor Salas.

League champions Valencia missed their chance to put pressure on leaders Real Sociedad when they slipped to a 1-0 defeat at struggling Osasuna in the Spanish first division on Sunday.

Real Mallorca displaced Rafael Benitez's side from

second place in the standings and extended their club record winning streak to seven matches when they came from behind to claim a 2-1 win away to Racing Santander.

Sociedad, who lead the table on goal difference from Mallorca, have a chance to restore their three-point lead when they visit Real Madrid at the Bernabeu later on Sunday.

Osasuna, who had lost their previous three matches, grabbed their shock win thanks to an early goal from Ivan Rosado.

The Osasuna striker flicked a delicate header past keeper Santiago Canizares after he found himself unmarked following a Pablo Garcia free kick on seven minutes.

The Navarrese side could have gone further ahead soon after when Gerardo Rivero found himself free at the far post, but the Argentine midfielder misjudged his shot to the visible relief of the out-of-sorts Valencia defence.

The league champions struggled to find their rhythm and suffered another setback when inspirational Argentine playmaker Pablo Aimar was forced to leave the pitch midway through the first half with a suspected muscle strain.

Just before the half hour the home side had yet another chance when John Aloisi was left with only Canizares to beat, but Argentine defender Roberto Ayala chased back to dispossess the Australian striker just as he was lining up his shot.

Valencia rarely threatened the Osasuna goal and it was Javier Aguirre's side that continued to control the game throughout the second half to earn themselves a deserved win.

Mallorca showed patience and strength of character as they fought their way back against Racing after Ismael gave the home side the lead from the

penalty spot on 33 minutes.

Argentine winger Ariel Ibagaza curled a free kick past keeper Jose Maria Ceballos from the left side of the area to equalise just before halftime.

Uruguayan centre-forward Walter Pandiani scored the winner when he smashed home from the penalty spot 10 minutes into the second half after Samuel Eto'o was adjudged to have been pushed in the area.

Villarreal 1 - 0 Sevilla, Deportivo La Coruna 2 - 0 Barcelona, Athletic Bilbao 2 - 1 Rayo Vallecano, Deportivo Alaves 3 - 0 Recreativo Huelva, Espanyol 1 - 2 Atletico Madrid, Osasuna 1 - 0 Valencia, Racing Santander 1 - 2 Mallorca, Valladolid 0 - 0 Malaga, Real Madrid 0 - 0 Real Sociedad, Real Betis 2 - 1 Celta de Vigo.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Real Sociedad	10	6	4	0	21	13	22
2 Mallorca	10	7	0	3	16	12	21
3 Valencia	10	5	3	2	18	7	18
4 Betis	10	4	5	1	19	11	17
5 Madrid	10	4	5	1	17	10	17
6 Celta	10	5	2	3	13	8	17
7 Deportivo	10	5	2	3	14	13	17
8 Malaga	10	4	4	2	17	16	16
9 Atlético	10	3	6	1	17	12	15
10 Barcelona	10	4	3	3	17	13	15
11 Valladolid	10	4	2	4	11	12	14
12 Athletic	10	3	3	4	14	21	12
13 Racing	10	3	2	5	10	11	11
14 Alavés	10	3	2	5	14	21	11
15 Villarreal	10	2	4	4	10	11	10
16 Sevilla	10	2	4	4	7	9	10
17 Rayo	10	2	2	6	13	19	8
18 Osasuna	10	2	2	6	11	18	8
19 Espanyol	10	2	1	7	8	16	7
20 Recreativo	10	1	2	7	7	21	5

## FIXTURES

### Sunday 24 November

Athletic Bilbao v Espanyol

Atletico Madrid v Real Betis

Barcelona v Real Madrid

Celta Vigo v Osasuna

Malaga v CD Alaves

Mallorca v Villarreal

Rayo Vallecano v Real Sociedad

Recreativo Huelva v Racing Santander

Sevilla v D Coruna

Valencia v Valladolid



Lionel Scaloni (right) scored RC Deportivo La Coruna's opening goal.





## DUTCH EREDIVISIE



Ajax roared back to the top of the Eredivisie on Sunday after crushing NEC Nijmegen 6-0 at the Amsterdam ArenA, while Feyenoord bounced back from their Champions League misery with a 2-1 win at PSV Eindhoven.

With PSV losing earlier in the day, Ronald Koeman's side took full advantage to replace them at the summit with a sensational display against a shell-shocked NEC.

Ahmed Hossam Mido opened the scoring in the first half and started a second-half goal glut when he made it 2-0 just two minutes after the restart.

The goals just kept pouring in after that, with Andy Van der Meijde, Rafael Van der Vaart, Andre Bergdolmo and Nourdin Boukhari all registering on the scoresheet to put Ajax three points clear of PSV at the summit.

Feyenoord, eliminated from Europe by Wednesday's 3-2 defeat to Newcastle United, earned a win which takes them to within a point of PSV with goals from Shinji Ono and Thomas Buffel.

PSV, who were themselves cast out of the Champions League, pulled a goal back through Dennis Rommedahl in the second half.

Despite struggling to settle, it was the visitors who took the lead in the 28th minute

through Ono.

The Japan international's shot from 20 yards zipped through a crowd of players and past unsighted Ronald Waterreus in the PSV goal.

Feyenoord then doubled their lead after 43 minutes when Brett Emerton lifted the ball over the top of a static PSV defence into the path of Thomas Buffel, who ran on to the ball and slid it past Waterreus to give the Rotterdamers a commanding lead they scarcely merited.

PSV again looked the better side after the break and Rommedahl finally found the back of the net a minute later, firing home after Johan Vogel crossed from the right.

RBC Roosendaal put a spoke in the wheels of Roda JC's European ambitions with a 4-0 hammering.

Geert Den Ouden scored twice for RBC before the visitors, fourth at the start of play, were weakened by the 81st-minute dismissal of Roel Brouwers.

Roda were then further punished by a penalty from Henk Vos and Melvin Fleur's strike.

Roda stay fourth, however, as Utrecht needed a last-minute strike from Dirk Kuijt to salvage a 2-2 draw against AZ Alkmaar.

Robin Nelisse put AZ ahead after 35 minutes, but the home side rallied and were back on level terms thanks to Stefaan Tanghe 19

minutes from time.

Utrecht fell behind again when Martijn Meerdink struck in the 83rd minute, but striker Kuijt was the hero for the hosts with his effort in the closing seconds.

The result means Utrecht stay in fifth place.

NAC Breda climbed up to sixth in the table after a comprehensive 3-0 win at struggling Excelsior.

NAC, who have only lost once in 12 matches this season, took the lead after 29 minutes through Orlando Engelaar, and early second-half strikes from Ali Boussaboun and Rob Penders put the result beyond doubt for the visitors, who are now just a point behind Utrecht in fifth but a further 10 behind leaders Ajax.

Vitesse Arnhem were brought crashing back down to earth following their UEFA Cup win over Werder Bremen in midweek as struggling Heerenveen staged a smash-and-grab 2-1 win.

Vitesse dominated proceedings for long periods against a side nine places below them in the table, but Heerenveen counter-attacked successfully and went in two goals up at half-time thanks to goals from Mika Vayrynen and Johan Hansma.

It took the home side until seven minutes from time to register on the scoresheet, Kalle Sone the man on target, but it proved to late

to have any real impact on the game.

In the remaining match, Richard Roelofs hit a late equaliser as Zwolle fought back for a point in a 1-1 draw against Twente.

Roelofs levelled in the 83rd minute to cancel out Juregen Cavens' opener one minute after the break.

It took 12 attempts but Groningen finally won their first game of the season with a surprisingly confident display against De Graafschap.

After recording two draws and nine defeats before this match, Ron Jans' side more than doubled their points tally for the campaign thanks to second-half goals from Glen Salmon, Rolf Landerl and

Martin Drent.

Rody Turpijn pulled a goal back for De Graafschap late in a game twice delayed by floodlight failure.

**Willem II Tilburg 0 - 1 RKC Waalwijk, FC Groningen 3 - 1 De Graafschap, PSV Eindhoven 1 - 2 Feyenoord Rotterdam, Ajax Amsterdam 6 - 0 NEC Nijmegen, Excelsior Rotterdam 0 - 3 NAC Breda, FC Utrecht 2 - 2 AZ Alkmaar, FC Zwolle 1 - 1 FC Twente Enschede, RBC Roosendaal 4 - 0 Roda Kerkrade, Vitesse Arnhem 1 - 2 SC Heerenveen.**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	12	9	3	0	34	12	30
PSV	12	8	3	1	29	6	27
Feyenoord	12	8	2	2	30	13	26
Roda JC	12	5	5	2	23	17	20
FC Utrecht	12	5	5	2	16	11	20
NAC	12	4	7	1	17	8	19
RKC	12	5	3	4	15	19	18
Vitesse	12	4	3	5	15	13	15
RBC	12	4	3	5	19	18	15
Willem II	12	4	3	5	17	19	15
NEC	12	4	3	5	15	23	15
FC Twente	12	3	5	4	14	20	14
AZ	12	4	2	6	20	30	14
Excelsior	12	3	4	5	15	20	13
Heerenveen	12	3	3	6	16	22	12
FC Zwolle	12	3	3	6	14	21	12
FC Groningen	12	1	2	9	10	24	5
De Graafschap	12	1	1	10	9	32	4



## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE REVIEW



### RESULTS MATCH DAY 6

Arsenal 0 PSV 0, Auxerre 1 Dortmund 0, Basel 3 Liverpool 3, Valencia 0 Spartak 3, Genk 1 Madrid 1, Roma 1 AEK 1, Ajax 1 Internazionale 2, Rosenborg 1 Lyon 1, Dynamo 1 Juventus 2, Feyenoord 2 Newcastle 3, Man. United 2 Leverkusen 0, Olympiakos 3 M. Haifa 3, Bayern 3 Lens 3, Milan 1 Deportivo 2, Barcelona 3 Galatasaray 1, Lokomotiv 2 Club Brugge 0.

#### Group A Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Arsenal	6	3	1	2	9	4	5	10
2 Borussia Dortmund	6	3	1	2	8	7	1	10
3 Auxerre	6	2	1	3	4	7	-3	7
4 PSV	6	1	3	2	5	8	-3	6

#### Group B Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Valencia	6	5	1	0	17	4	13	16
2 Basle	6	2	3	1	12	12	0	9
3 Liverpool	6	2	2	2	12	8	4	8
4 Spartak Moscow	6	0	0	6	1	18	-17	0

#### Group C Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Madrid	6	2	3	1	15	7	8	9
2 Roma	6	2	3	1	3	4	-1	9
3 AEK Athens	6	0	6	0	7	7	0	6
4 Genk	6	0	4	2	2	9	-7	4

#### Group D Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Inter Milan	6	3	2	1	12	8	4	11

2 Ajax  
3 Lyon  
4 Rosenborg

6	2	2	2	6	5	1	8
6	2	2	2	12	9	3	8
6	0	4	2	4	12	-8	4

#### Group E Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Juventus	6	4	1	1	12	3	9	13
2 Newcastle United	6	3	0	3	6	8	-2	9
3 Dynamo Kiev	6	2	1	3	6	9	-3	7
4 Feyenoord	6	1	2	3	4	8	-4	5

#### Group F Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	6	5	0	1	16	8	8	15
2 Bayer Leverkusen	6	3	0	3	9	11	-2	9
3 Maccabi Haifa	6	2	1	3	12	12	0	7
4 Olympiakos	6	1	1	4	11	17	-6	4

### Group G Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 AC Milan	6	4	0	2	12	7	5	12
2 D Coruna	6	4	0	2	11	12	-1	12
3 Lens	6	2	2	2	11	11	0	8
4 Bayern Munich	6	0	2	4	9	13	-4	2

### Group H Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
1 Barcelona	6	6	0	0	13	4	9	18
2 Lokomotiv Moscow	6	2	1	3	5	7	-2	7
3 Club Brugge	6	1	2	3	5	7	-2	5
4 Galatasaray	6	1	1	4	5	10	-5	4

### Second Group Stage UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Tuesday November 26, 2002

**Group C**  
Lokomotiv Moscow v Borussia Dortmund  
AC Milan v Real Madrid

**Group D**  
FC Basle v Manchester United  
Deportivo La Coruna v Juventus

Wednesday November 27, 2002

**Group A**  
Bayer Leverkusen v Barcelona  
Newcastle United v Inter Milan

**Group B**  
Roma v Arsenal  
Valencia v Ajax

**Group A**  
Barcelona  
Internazionale  
Bayer 04 Leverkusen  
Newcastle United

**Group B**  
Valencia  
Arsenal  
AS Roma  
Ajax

**Group C**  
Real Madrid  
AC Milan  
BV Borussia Dortmund  
FC Lokomotiv Moscow

**Group D**  
Manchester United  
Juventus  
Deportivo La Coruna  
Basel



## UEFA CUP



FIRST LEG MATCHES: 26/28 NOVEMBER 2002  
SECOND LEG MATCHES: 10/12 DECEMBER 2002

Wisla Krakow (POL) v Schalke 04 (GER)  
Sturm Graz (AUT) v S.S. Lazio (ITA)  
Real Betis (ESP) v Auxerre (FRA)  
Besiktas (TUR) v Dynamo Kiev (UKR)

Paris Saint-Germain FC (FRA) v Boavista (POR)  
Club Brugge (BEL) v VfB Stuttgart (GER)  
Liverpool (ENG) v Vitesse (HOL)  
FC Slovan Liberec (CZE) v Panathinaikos (GRE)  
Denizlispor (TUR) v Olympique Lyonnais (FRA)  
Bordeaux (FRA) v Anderlecht (BEL)  
Malaga (ESP) v Leeds United (ENG)

PAOK Thessaloniki (GRE) v Slavia Prague (CZE)  
Hertha BSC Berlin (GER) v Fulham (ENG)  
AEK Athens (GRE) v Maccabi Haifa (ISR)  
FC Porto (POR) v RC Lens (FRA)  
Celtic (SCO) v Celta Vigo (ESP)



## Scottish Premier League

**S**cottish champions Celtic rounded off a perfect week with a 4-0 victory over Partick Thistle at Parkhead to regain top spot from arch rivals Rangers in the SPL.

Martin O'Neill's men made Blackburn Rovers and the critics eat their words in the UEFA Cup in midweek to set up a mouth-watering showdown with Spanish side Celta Vigo.

And back in domestic action they proved they are still the team to catch in the top-flight as they regained top spot, by a point, for the first time since early September courtesy of an own goal from Derek Whyte, a well-taken Stilian Petrov double and Henrik Larsson goal.

Celtic went ahead after 10 minutes when Sutton's intended cross for Larsson was sliced by former Celtic defender Whyte under his own goalkeeper. Petrov coolly side-footed the second 12 minutes before the break and his chip made it 3-0 after 68 minutes. Larsson rounded things off with his 22nd goal of the campaign late on.

Rangers wasted the chance to stay clear at the top of the SPL when they were held 2-2 at Aberdeen on Saturday.

The leaders needed a penalty from skipper Barry Ferguson 12 minutes from time to even rescue a point against the fired-up Dons.

Everything looked to be going according to plan for Alex McLeish's men when they went ahead through Dutch defender Arthur Numan on 24 minutes. But things started to go wrong on 56 minutes when Leon Mike levelled for Ebbe Skovdahl's team.

And when Darren Mackie put the home side in front 16 minutes from time a big shock was on the cards.

But up stepped Ferguson to save the blushes of the Ibrox side.

In Sunday's other game, Dunfermline stretched their lead over Hearts in third place with a spirited fightback at East End Park to beat their league rivals 3-1. After a hard-fought but goalless first half, a Scott Severin thunderbolt from 30 yards broke the deadlock in 53 minutes and looked to have set the visitors up for the victory which would have leapfrogged them into third spot.

But the Pars refused to buckle, fought their way back into the game and goals from Barry Nicholson, Lee Bullen and Stevie Crawford gave them a well deserved victory. Hibernian were handed their first penalty kick of the season to ensure a 2-1 win over Dundee at Easter Road.

Mixu Paatelainen gave the home side the lead early in the game, striking after just 12 minutes. And he netted again from the spot on 49 minutes to give Bobby Williamson's men a 2-0 lead.

Nacho Novo did get a consolation for Dundee in the dying seconds, but it was too little too late. The win takes fifth-placed Hibs level on points with bitter rivals Hearts.

Gary McSwegan scored his first goal since February 2001 to ensure Kilmarnock earned all three points in a 2-0 win against Livingston at Rugby Park. The former Scotland international struck deep into injury time against a disappointing Livi side who were clearly suffering a hangover from their midweek CIS Insurance Cup exit.

Paul Di Giacomo put his injury concerns behind him with his first goal for a year in the 64th minute to open the scoring for the Ayrshire side.

Jim Hamilton stepped up from the shadows to guide Dundee United to their fourth win in five games - 2-1 at Motherwell.

The former Aberdeen forward was called up by Tannadice manager Paul Hegarty in place of injured Scotland international Steven Thompson. Hamilton responded in the first minute with his first goal of the season and then followed it with his second 23 minutes later.

The Fir Park side looked dispirited but a late fightback in the second period saw Dirk Lehmann grab a lifeline with eight minutes remaining.

But United held on to move themselves further away from the foot of the table where 'Well' appear to be permanent residents.

**Aberdeen 2 - 2 Rangers, Hibernian 2 - 1 FC Dundee, Kilmarnock 2 - 0 Livingston, Motherwell 1 - 2 Dundee United, Celtic 4 - 0 Partick Thistle, Dunfermline 3 - 1 Hearts.**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	15	13	1	1	46	8	40
2. Rangers	15	12	3	0	45	10	39
3. Dunfermline	15	8	2	5	29	29	26
4. Hearts	15	5	6	4	24	21	21
5. Hibernian	15	7	0	8	21	24	21
6. Kilmarnock	15	5	4	6	16	27	19
7. Dundee	15	4	5	6	16	23	17
8. Aberdeen	15	4	5	6	15	26	17
9. Livingston	15	4	3	8	21	23	15
10. Dundee United	15	3	4	8	13	26	13
11. Partick	15	2	6	7	11	26	12
12. Motherwell	15	2	3	10	15	29	9

## French Ligue 1

**S**urprise French Ligue 1 leaders Nice left it late before grabbing the points against Auxerre while Lyon proved too good for Bordeaux. Two substitutes stole the show as table-topping Nice continued to defy the odds with a last-gasp 2-0 victory at Auxerre.

The Mediterranean outfit, newly promoted this season, rocked their northern hosts with breakaway goals in the dying minutes, stretching their lead at the top to four points at least temporarily.

Replacement Adekamni Olufade scored with his first touch of the ball in the 87th minute and then another substitute, Sammy Traore, hammered home the clincher in the second minute of injury time.

The glamour clash between Lyon and Bordeaux was won 4-2 by the home side as they kept the pressure on Nice.

Lyon took the lead in the opening minute through Sidney Govou, who ran onto a long ball from Vikash Dhorasoo and beat goalkeeper Ulrich Rame with a flick of the outside of his boot. But after 18 minutes Nicolas Sahnoun equalised from a corner with a powerful header high into the net.

Bordeaux continued to call the shots and in the 31st minute took the lead, this time David Sommeil scoring with a well-directed header that beat goal-



Mario Yepes of Nantes (left) and Danijel Ljuboja of Strasbourg.

keeper Gregory Coupet. Bordeaux deserved their half-time lead, but it was short-lived, for within eight minutes of the restart they found themselves two goals behind.

In the 46th minute Peguy Luyindula scored from a scramble inside the penalty area and three minutes later he grabbed his second as he slid the ball past Rame. Then in the 53rd minute,

Sochaux missed the chance to move up to third as they were held to a goalless draw by struggling Montpellier. Guy Lacombe's men, unbeaten at home this season, could not break down Les Heraultaise.

Sochaux have consistently struggled this season to see off teams at the wrong end of the table - and so it proved again.

Nantes are suddenly making winning a habit as they smashed four past Strasbourg on their way to a 4-1 home victory.

After limping through the early stages of the season, Les Canaris have won successive matches starting last week against Lille.

Marama Vahirua and Wilfred Dalmat each hit the back of the net twice for Nantes while Danijel Ljuboja converted from the penalty spot to make the score 1-1 before Strasbourg capitulated.

Le Havre took a point from their basement battle at bottom side Rennes but finished the game with 10 men when Senegalese defender Souleymane Diawara was sent off at the end.

With Le Havre just two places above Rennes going into this game they will have been the happier, although having Diawara dismissed in the 90th minute will have taken the shine off the result.

The game between third-placed Marseille and second-bottom Troyes at the Stade Velodrome also finished scoreless.

Marseille had been the better side but they will see the match as two points dropped rather than one point gained against struggling Troyes.

Christophe Landrin scored the only goal of the game as Lille ended a 46-year wait to win at Sedan. Landrin's goal after 71 minutes was Lille's first win at the Roudourou stadium since 1956. Guingamp won 2-0 at Bastia courtesy of goals from Florent Malouda and Didier Droga.

Olympique Lyon salvaged some pride from a difficult week with a win to keep up their league title challenge at the weekend.

**Auxerre 0 - 2 Nice, Bastia 0 - 2 Guingamp, Lyon 4 - 2 Bordeaux, Marseille 0 - 0 Troyes, Nantes 4 - 1 Strasbourg, Rennes 0 - 0 Le Havre, Sedan 0 - 1 Lille, Sochaux 0 - 0 Montpellier, Lens 3 - 2 Paris S.G.**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Nice	15	8	5	2	21	7	29
2 Lyon	15	8	4	3	31	18	28
3 Marseille	15	7	4	4	16	15	25
4 PSG	15	6	6	3	25	15	24
5 Sochaux	15	6	6	3	17	11	24
6 Lens	15	6	6	3	16	12	24
7 Monaco	15	6	5	4	22	16	23
8 Guingamp	15	6	4	5	21	18	22
9 Strasbourg	15	6	4	5	20	25	22
10 Auxerre	14	6	3	5	15	15	21
11 Bordeaux	15	5	5	5	17	16	20
12 Lille	15	5	5	5	12	14	20
13 Nantes	15	5	4	6	16	17	19
14 Ajaccio	15	4	5	6	12	16	17
15 Bastia	15	5	2	8	14	22	17
16 Sedan	14	4	4	6	16	20	16
17 Montpellier	15	3	5	7	11	18	14
18 Le Havre	15	2	7	6	11	20	13
19 Troyes	15	2	6	7	11	18	12
20 Rennes	15	2	4	9	9	20	10

## Alain's Corner



Alain Barataud

## FORZA NIZA!!!

**W**ho can believe it? Only two weeks ago, Lyon was so close to securing a spot in the second round of the Champion's League but

ended up bowing out on goal difference. What a shame that Lyon only had a draw with Rosenborg in Norway and Ajax Amsterdam finished up going through instead.

This week, Lyon was not alone, as top team of English football, Liverpool, missed their chance in Basel after going down to the first Swiss team to qualify for the second round in the history of Champion's League. Well done to Socceroo Scott Chipperfield, team member of the successful Swiss Basel side and Australia's only representative in the competition.

After a good draw in Munich, Lens joined Auxerre in the UEFA Cup (who beat Dortmund in their last Champion's League game) and now France will have five teams in this competition: Lyon, Lens, Auxerre, Paris-Saint-Germain and Bordeaux. We'll have to wait and see if any of these teams can make it through to the final four in May!

This week was rich on news with Jacques Santini announcing the eighteen members to play Yugoslavia in Paris next Wednesday. No surprises there - no new players and only Pires, Lizarazu, Cisse missing the squad as they need more recovery time before they join the French team possibly again in February for the next game and only if they can show the coach they are back in top form. The bad news for the French coach is the injured Trezeguet who is out for at least one month more but has an array of strikers to choose from: Henry, Wiltord, Marlet and the young Kapo; he has the quality to replace the Juventus. Also on his waiting list are the likes of Nicolas Anelka and Djibril Cisse.

In League One this weekend, the biggest surprise came from Auxerre, who has dominated the championship with Niza from the beginning of the new season. Saturday saw the teams play each other for a place on top with a big advantage to Auxerre at home. The game was top quality and Auxerre played well, controlling ninety per cent of the game.

The strikers of Auxerre: Cisse, Benjani, Kapo, Fadiga, etc tried everything but none could find the net of Gregorini, the keeper of the French Riviera team. The defence, lead by the warrior and very experimental captain, Jose Cobos, survived and not only lived to tell the tale, they realized the perfect holdup, scoring twice in the last few minutes of the game, taking the three points back home.

The team everyone predicted in July to be relegated straight away to the League Two after joining the elite league this year, remains on top with four points ahead of Marseille coming in third position but only one point ahead of favourites Lyon.

Well done, Niza! Good luck, you are on the way to gaining a spot in the League One next year with just a few points more. You wrote one of the more beautiful stories of the French League and your name goes no more by Niza, but The Warriors.

In the other top game of the week, Lyon achieved a top win over Bordeaux four-two and is cruising very well in the French Championnat. The award goes to Nantes, who smashed Strasbourg four-one in a game of survival for the Atlantic side, Nantes.

Next Wednesday will see a new test match for Les Bleus - France versus Yugoslavia - to see if they are recovering from the World Cup. They are looking well since Santini is coaching the team but Yugoslavia is a serious test, especially after their good start in qualification for Euro 2004 in a very difficult group with Italy and Wales. This game is the first big test for France.

Of course, next Saturday the League will be back with a top game, Marseille versus Lens, North against the South, and the best supporters of the country.

See you next week.



# SHARP-SHOOTERS OF THE NSL



**Damian Mori**  
**Perth Glory**



**Patricio Almendra**  
**Football Kingz**



**Anthony Pelikan**  
**Melbourne Nights**



**Fernando Rech**  
**Brisbane Strikers**



**Stuart Young**  
**Wollongong Wolves**



**Andrew Packer**  
**Olympic Sharks**



**Joe Spiteri**  
**Marconi Stallions**



**Heremaia Ngata**  
**Football Kingz**

Design By Carlos Furtado